

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY EDITION

The Brooklyn Paper

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DOWNTOWN EDITION

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30 years

BROOKLYN'S REAL NEWSPAPER

This issue was more than three decades in the making. From its first soft-news edition in 1978 (reproduced at right) to its hard-hitting coverage of crime, corruption and development in the 1980s and 1990s to today's splashy tabloid-inspired broadsheet, The Brooklyn Paper has been covering this town with a fiercely independent voice that represents an ascendant borough.

Our story is, indeed, the story of "the New Brooklyn," the full-fledged city that emerged out of Manhattan's shadow in the last three decades to become a world leader in the arts, dining and nightlife — and a damn good place to raise a family.

Please enjoy this collector's edition — and remember to pick us up every week (and every day at BrooklynPaper.com) to find out what's going on in Brooklyn today. — Gersh Kuntzman, Editor

INSIDE

- The borough's tumultuous past — as shown through **30 of the biggest news stories in our 30 years.** See page 2
- A **personal look back** from founding Publisher Ed Weintrob. See page 4
- Our guide to the **neighborhoods** we've covered — and how they've changed (mostly for the better). See page 6
- Brooklyn is beautiful — which is why we offer a spread of our intrepid **photographer Tom Callan's** favorite shots from over 25 years. See page 16
- We've seen **big development projects** come and we've seen them go. Check out our overview of Brooklyn's real-estate rebirth. See page 18
- Our first editors set **the standards that we live by today.** They stopped by our offices for a chat. See page 28



1985



1986



1987



1988



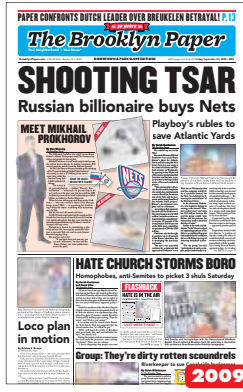
1995



2004



2001



2009



1993



1994



1997



2003



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The Brooklyn Paper

30 years — 30 AMAZING STORIES

The stories we told!

Here are some of the 30 biggest stories from our 30 years

Brooklyn has changed, and The Brooklyn Paper has been through it all the way. From urban renewal to the "brownstones" to the young urban professionals, every newsmaker we covered had, in his or her small way, a role in creating "The New Brooklyn."

Here's our look back at some of the biggest stories of the past three decades (in no particular order):

Business & commerce

1 Fulton mauled: The original vision called for a Minneapolis-style enclosed-walkway shopping experience linked to Modernist office towers on Flatbush Avenue, but by the 1980s, that had been scaled back to an attractively paved car-free mall paid for with federal mass transit funds. Planners hoped an attractive mall would bring back middle-class shoppers and also attract new residents of nearby neighborhoods — but it accomplished neither.

Three of the mall's four department stores — E.J. Korvette, Martin's and J.W. Mays — shuttered within a few years, and the lone survivor — A&S — shrank considerably and was rebranded a Macy's, the venerable Gagé & Tollner restaurant was eventually replaced by a TGI Fridays; even the mall's brick walkways are now being replaced by conventional sidewalks.

The mall nevertheless remained a magnet for shoppers; its storefronts were in such demand that they commanded among the highest rents in the country. Yet the anchorless indoor Albee Square Mall at Fulton Mall's eastern end was a failure, in part because many of its stores were duplicates of what could be found outside on Fulton. Albee was eventually acquired by Bruce Ratner, who did an encouraging makeover (bringing in Toys R Us as an anchor tenant) and considered linking it to his nearby Metrotech office campus. Now it's a hole in the ground.

2 Bank bust: Local savings banks and savings and loans — originally locally owned "mutual" institutions — first merged and then were taken over by distant

entities. Among fabled Brooklyn names lost in translation: Independence Savings, Williamsburgh Savings, Dime Savings Bank of Brooklyn (no relation to the Dime of Williamsburgh that recently appropriated the old Dime of Brooklyn logo), Brooklyn Savings, Metropolitan Savings, Bay Ridge Federal, Hamilton Federal and The Greater.

3 Vacuum filled: There was a gradual corporate collapse in Brooklyn — accentuated by the loss of the borough's locally owned banks and of the A&S corporate headquarters (which moved to Manhattan), as well as the decline, moving, closing or merging of such mega-sized businesses as Pfizer (founded in Williamsburgh), Brooklyn Union Gas (a big player in the Brownstone revival, but now part of National Grid), New York Telephone, and other significant Brooklyn-based institutions. These losses created a vacuum in Brooklyn now being filled by real-estate developers, back office operators, and entrepreneurs.

4 We'll drink to that: Brooklyn Brewery resurrected, on a small scale, what was once a long written-off — the progenitors of Smith Street in Cobble Hill and Carroll Gardens are no more, that last week, Mayor Bloomberg said his buddies often prefer to cut in Brooklyn.

5 Storing the borough: Studies said it, Brooklynites knew it — the borough's "under-reliant" some retail developments — like Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Center and Atlantic Mall near Downtown, Gateway mall in southeast Brooklyn, and the Target-anchored Flatbush Junction near Brooklyn College — were opposed as threats to nearby commercial strips, generators of traffic woes, and aesthetic offenses. Costco opened in Sunset Park to wide acclaim, and that neighborhood's commercial



DE-PORTED: The Port Authority piers under Brooklyn Heights were no longer booming by the time this picture was taken in 1982. A plan to turn the piers into a park morphed into a waterfront development, but now small portions of open space are being built.



KeySpan Park was packed on opening night in 2001, when the Cyclones ushered in a new era in Brooklyn baseball.

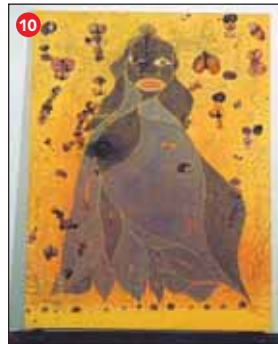
strips continue to thrive; there are multiple Home Depots, and neighborhood hardware stores live on. Today, speculation persists — along with strong feelings on both sides — about the eventual placement of other big box stores, including a Walmart, in Brooklyn.

Sports & Culture

6 Baseball returns: The 1957 Dodgers left after the 1957 season — and with them went the borough's proud (and long) tradition of professional sports. But thanks to the Mets — with an assist from baseball-mad Mayor

Giuliani — a pro team (albeit a minor-league one) returned to Brooklyn in 2001 when the Cyclones took the field at the new KeySpan Park in Coney Island. Giuliani steamrolled local leaders' hopes for a "Sportsplex" complex, pumped in lots of taxpayer bucks, and then illegally tore down the old Thunderbolt rollercoaster in the middle of the night, but he got KeySpan Park built. Though always competitive, the Clones haven't won a New York-Penn League championship since their inaugural year, allowing Brooklynites to revive another tradition from the Dodger days: the annual cry of "Wait 'til next year!"

7 Rolling the Dice: The world knows him as Andrew Dice Clay, but for us, he'll always be Andy Silverstein, the John Travolta look-alike who worked for his dad's process-serving business on Court Street. Our intrepid reporter Laurie Sue Brockway spotted Andy doing his act one day — he was always doing his



Chris Otili's Virgin Mary in "Sensation" at the Brooklyn Museum was a cause celebre in 1999.

act! — and broke the biggest entertainment story to come out of Downtown Brooklyn since Woody Allen. Her first story ran in 1979, and it predicted the Dice Man's coming greatness.

8 Winning the culture war: Perhaps it started with Spike Lee in Fort Greene. Perhaps it was Paul Auster or Steve Buscemi in Park Slope. Or maybe it was the publication of Jonathan Lethem's "Fortress of Solitude" in 2003. But sometime within the last two decades, Brooklyn went from a backwater to being the cultural center of the world. The list of luminaries who've migrated (in some cases back) to Brooklyn is too long to run in our print edition, as is the list of institutions that fill New Yorkers' cultural calendar. But it includes St. Ann's Warehouse, Bargemusic, the Brooklyn Academy of Music and its relatively new Harvey Theater, and on and on and on.

9 Who's a bum now?: This story was too crazy to be believed. The Brooklyn Dodgers abandoned the borough in 1957. Then, in 1988, three Bay Ridge guys opened a Third Avenue bar called "The Brooklyn Dodger," filling the inside with baseball memorabilia. Everyone loved the joint — except the now Los Angeles Dodgers, who sued for copyright infringement. After an epic legal battle, the bar owners — the Davids against the baseball Goliaths — won. "The SOB

got what they deserved," owner Kevin Boyle told us when the case was finally won in 1993.

10 Quite a Sensation: The most controversial story to come out of the arts community was the Brooklyn Museum's decision to show off British art collector Charles Saatchi's Modern art holdings in a 1999 show called "Sensation." The show was controversial long before it hit the borough — thanks primarily to a single work: a Chris Otili portrait of the Madonna enhanced with elephant dung and butterfly shapes cut out from porno mags. Then-Mayor Giuliani practically had an aneurysm from the piece and pulled \$7-million in city funding. Free speech advocates maimed the other side of the bustings, effectively demonizing the mayor as "anti-art" — not a position in which the man who liked to champion New York as the "capital of the world" wanted to find himself. The funding was restored, Giuliani was succeeded by Bloomberg and the museum got what it wanted: publicity.

Development

11 Brownstone Brooklyn: A movement by middle-class New Yorkers to reclaim worn — very worn — historic neighborhoods around Downtown Brooklyn accelerated in the late 1970s and early '80s. While properties could be gotten for a song, the work neces-

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The Brooklyn Paper

30 years — 30 AMAZING STORIES

sary to convert them into desirable habitats was both risky and considerable. The environment was often less than welcoming — many blocks were crime-ridden and it took a leap of faith to envision a bright future. Major Brooklyn institutions, including Brooklyn Union Gas (through its Cinderella program) and Con Edison (through Renaissance), encouraged the reclamation effort; banks began competing for business in neighborhoods that they had only recently been redlining; the Brooklyn Union Gas-hosted Brownstone Fair was a hub of creative energy. When the lights went out during the terrible 1977 blackout (just before The Paper started publishing), gas lamps — supplied by the Cinderella program — illuminated block parties on attractive Brownstone Brooklyn blocks, while nearby neighborhoods burned.

12 The new Brooklynites: Office and manufacturing buildings, schools and churches went residential, meeting an insatiable demand. After the Ex-Lax building on Atlantic Avenue in Boerum Hill became a co-op, many others followed, including St. John's University on Schermerhorn Street, the Insurance Building on Clinton Street, 66 Court Street, the Eagle Warehouse at Fulton Ferry, and majestic churches. Even the Williamsburgh Savings Bank tower lost its teeth, as denizens were evicted to make room for new residents.

13 'Witnesses' to the future: The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, also known as the Jehovah's Witnesses, had begun their expansion before the Brownstone revolution, acquiring the massive Squibb Pharmaceutical buildings near Fulton Ferry. Their expansion continued through the 1970s and 1980s with hotel takeovers that included the Margaret, Borsari, Standish Arms and Towers, 360 Furman Street, and a "silver" building on Livingston Street. Several of these structures have recently been sold to private or other institutional owners as the Watchtower continued expansion of an upstate campus.

14 The Eichner sanction: Developer Bruce Eichner rubbed the Brooklyn Heights establishment the wrong way. Eichner's home at the Pierpoint Street contract to the Promenade, which incorporated modern elements in a designed deemed sufficiently suitable for the historic district, was praised by architectural critics but opposed by Heights leaders. When his carefully restored Margaret Hotel was totaled by fire days before completion and Eich-



THE CANDIDATE: Years ago, John O'Hara ran for office (many offices!) and later ran afoul of DA Charles Hynes.

ner sought a variance to rebuild it to its pre-fire height, the Brooklyn Heights Association fought back. Eichner won, rebuilt the Margaret and, to the BHA's angst, sold it to the Jehovah's Witnesses.

At 360 Furman Street (the massive structure now known as One Brooklyn Bridge Park), Eichner devised a creative plan to save at least some of the building's manufacturing jobs — by splitting the building, with high-end residential occupants on the water side, and manufacturers on the side facing the gritty Brooklyn-Queens Expressway. After facing BHA opposition, he sold it to the Watchtower, and all manufacturing jobs were lost.

15 Shipping on the Brooklyn: Shipping on the Brooklyn Heights waterfront declined as container ports in New Jersey and Red Hook thrived. The Port Authority, tired of the cost of maintaining a facility it no longer needed, sought in the mid-1980s to fill the site with low-rise housing and open space — creating park advocates who favored a large and diverse greenspace, and Brooklyn Heights civics who saw their community's viewpoint threatened.

The plan was vetoed down, and the concept of a Brooklyn Bridge Park, stretching from Atlantic Avenue to the Manhattan Bridge, emerged. The notion of a public park radically changed when the site became a state economic development project: recreational components would have to be paid for by revenue generated from housing or commercial development on site. Unable to start such development in the current recession, project administrators began some relatively simple open space construction this year.



HAVING A BALL: In recent years, no story has dominated The Paper's coverage like developer Bruce Ratner's plans for the \$4-billion Atlantic Yards project. Ratner pictured in 2004 with Borough President Markowitz and former basketball star Connie Hawkins) has been vilified and lauded, but the project remains unbuilt.



Brooklyn suffered significant losses on September 11, 2001. Timothy Shaw, nephew of Firefighter Dave DeRubio, at services for the lost hero.

16 New upscale enclaves: All it took was a simple rezoning for the Fourth Avenue corridor in Park Slope, the Williamsburg waterfront and Flatbush Avenue Extension to burst forward with new residential development. The real-estate bust has caused a temporary glut in units, but experts believe that they'll all be filled — maybe not at the high-end prices developers were seeking — eventually. People want to live in Brooklyn

— even if the buildings to which they move aren't as attractive as some would like.

17 The fire this time: The Paper's early years, the St. George Hotel was a cancer in Brooklyn Heights. Rundown, with a decrepit subway access favored by homeless sleepers, there was little hope of redemption for the one-time biggest hotel in the city when a new owner failed to capitalize on a real-estate boom to convert his prop-



IN HAPPIER TIMES: Then-Borough President Golden presents a Brooklyn Bridge award to then-Assemblyman Clarence Norman in 1991. Both eventually left office — Golden to retirement and Norman to jail.

erty to co-op or condo residences. Then, in 1995, a major arson fire destroyed a big part of the site, though eventually the St. George was stabilized and became a residence for students from several New York City colleges.

18 The biggest project ever: Proposed in 2003 as the biggest development in Brooklyn's history, Bruce Ratner's \$4-billion Atlantic Yards project — including housing and commercial components and an arena for the New Jersey Nets built around a superblock in Prospect Heights — met unexpectedly strong opposition and was stalled until the current recession forced at least a temporary cutback in its scope. As 2009 winds down, final lawsuits may be resolved to permit the start of some construction, providing financing can be had.

19 Politics: There have been better scandals, but the saga of perennial candidate John Kennedy O'Hara is one of the greats. In the mid-1990s, O'Hara had been a thorn in the Brooklyn political establishment's side. He backed rebel candidates. He campaigned against chosen party backs. He made noise. And he rallied against District Attorney Charles Hynes. Then he did something really wrong: He voted in an election. Problem was, O'Hara voted in a neighboring election dis-

trict — and Hynes prosecuted him for it! The result was a long and drawn-out legal battle that led to O'Hara's conviction — the only person besides Susan B. Anthony to be prosecuted for the crime. He was disbarred and did his community service. Then fought to be reinstated as a lawyer — which happened this year.

20 Obama in Brooklyn: This was the greatest news story that we didn't know about: When he was a law student at Columbia in the early 1980s, future President Barack Obama lived in both Park Slope and Brooklyn Heights. "I don't remember the exact address," he told The Brooklyn Paper in 2007, referring to his Park Slope home, where he is believed to have lived for about a year-and-a-half. Then, he lived for about three months in Brooklyn Heights, near the Promenade. On Sunday mornings, there was a bagel shop near the subway station, and I would go there and pick up a coffee and New York Times." If we had only known. Who knows? We might be head of the FCC today!

21 Party Marty: While many people don't know the names of their elected officials, in Brooklyn almost everyone knows Borough President Markowitz. He can walk down any street and elicit excited cries of, "Hey Marty!" and his boosterism for the borough is infectious, despite having virtually no power to do anything, he manages to get the name "Brooklyn" repeated all over the world. But the borough is split over Markowitz's support for Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project, which requires a subversion of the normal city planning process, a sweetheart land deal

for the developer and large public subsidies. Whether it is ultimately great for Brooklyn or not, it's Markowitz's legacy.

22 Scandalous behavior: This may not be Chinatown, but it is Brooklyn, where the politics are rough and tumble. While most of our cops and judges are honorable folk, we've had more than a handful who wandered off the straight and narrow. To wit:

- Rep. Fred Richmond, reputedly the richest man in Congress at the time he was forced to resign in 1982, was investigated for allegedly committing, while in office, such crimes as harboring an escaped convict, possession of cocaine, "feigning" retirement from his company while continuing to exert control, and campaign financing irregularities. Afterwards, an apparently distraught lover committed suicide in his apartment.
- Former Brooklyn Democratic Party boss and 11-term Assemblyman Clarence Norman was jailed in 2007 for soliciting a campaign contribution from a lobbyist above the legal limit and for pocketing a \$5,000 campaign contribution. Small potatoes? The convictions were part of District Attorney Charles Hynes's larger investigation of a "pay to play" judicial system that alleged that Norman sold judgeships in Brooklyn and forced judicial candidates to his hand-picked campaign consultants.
- City Councilman Angel Rodriguez went to jail in 2002 for demanding a bribe worth more than \$1.5 million from the developer of a Red Hook supermarket, in exchange for his support.

See **STORIES** on page 26

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CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

The Brooklyn Paper

30 years of RUNNING A PAPER

Steady Eddie

The Paper's founding publisher has been the leader of a great team

By Ed Weintrob
The Brooklyn Paper

We've come a long way in 30 years.

As Sinatra might say, we did what we had to do, faced it all and stood tall, and most of all... we did it our way.

As I sat with a cadre of believers in Minsky's Bar on Remsen Street back in 1978, envisioning a new kind of Brooklyn newspaper with the simplest of monikers, we strategized for the future—but certainly not for 30 years. We were young and somewhat reckless, and 30 years was a lifetime.

Each of us was determined to stick it out through the storms to come, but we did not really know just how difficult those storms would be.

We've had a great staff over these 30 years, and most shared the vision. Our ability to stay afloat, our success, is their achievement.

The Brooklyn Paper was founded as a free newspaper at a time when the concept was at best a novelty, so it's understandable that competitors might have been overly confident that our venture would be short-lived. Instead, we outlived most of them along with numerous new entries, some of which were slick and well-financed.

The Brooklyn Paper began as a feature-driven bi-weekly covering Downtown and Brooklyn Heights—but as we stumbled upon story after story that no one else was covering, the Paper evolved into a hard-news weekly that would break countless big stories and report on its communities with integrity.

Our first front page

I spoke this week for the first time in 30 years with Tom Bongiorno. Unbeknownst to him, his family played important roles in The Brooklyn Paper's conception.

In the mid-1960s, Tom's father Ralph, who had been the Brooklyn Eagle's production manager and sports editor when it closed in 1963, founded and edited the weekly Brooklyn Times. He provided me with an exceptional opportunity, allowing me to write, edit and design a weekly multi-page teen section. This was heady stuff for a kid.

The germination of the business that would evolve into The Brooklyn Paper began through a fortuitous meeting



with Ralph, and his son Tom, at 26 Court St. a decade later.

That's how Tom's picture ended up appearing on the front page of our very first edition (which is reprinted at the top of today's front page), illustrating a story about rebellious secretaries. That's Tom's secretary in the picture about to pour a pot of coffee over his head.

— Ed Weintrob

We established a high standard for quality community journalism in Brooklyn, and challenged our competitors to rise to our standard.

By popular demand, business necessity and ambition, we expanded from our original neighborhoods to cover all of Brownstone Brooklyn, then east to Bay Ridge and Bensonhurst, for a time south to Midwood, and finally north to Williamsburg and Greenpoint. We packaged coverage of Brooklyn's eclectic arts scene in our award-winning GO Brooklyn section, and published a smorgasbord of special editions.

As technology evolved, The Brooklyn Paper was among the early adopters and leaders of community newspapers nationally—both in print and online.

With all this in mind, please

excuse us as we take a moment to pat ourselves on the back, and as we thank each of you—for our readers, our advertisers and our friends of all stripes—who contributed to our success and who are joining us in our celebration.

While I might have been self-assured in my knowledge of Brooklyn and journalism at age 27, when The Paper was born, The Paper could not have launched or flourished on my energies alone.

Bernard Edelman, one of the best community newspaper editors ever, pitched in after leaving CourierLife, a job that had followed his tour of duty in Vietnam. For us, he provided a steady hand, great news judgment, and sage advice.

Beverly Chevront, who edited The Paper for four years, helped me establish the high editorial standards I sought, standards which carried on.



At The Brooklyn Paper's fifth-anniversary celebration, then-strapping Publisher Ed Weintrob is pictured (left to right) with reporter Gary Kimball, Office Manager Marian Weisblatt, graphic artist Virginia Harris, columnist Jam Barnard, cartoonist Botton Lash, reporter Duane Stoltzfus, and Editor-in-Chief Ann V. Bollinger.

on for an excursion in local journalism where, as I'd tell our police reporters, a purse-snatching from a Court Street office worker was more newsworthy than a multiple murder in a part of the precinct we didn't cover. "Brownstone Brooklyn" was a new reality, and its geography was tight. Red Hook was as relevant to our Brooklyn Heights readers as Chicago's South Side might be—not very. Think local.

Every participant in the early years—our first photographers, artists, reporters, sales staff, production staff and office manager—set a very high bar.

Without exception the editors who followed—Paul Toomey, Margaret Daly, Tracy Connor, Karen O'Shea, Howard Altschiller, Diane Webber, Neil Sloane, Lisa Curtis, current Senior Editor Vince DiMichele and current Editor Gersh Kuntzman—along with General Manager Alison Tocci and most of our staff, passed the test.

While today's space doesn't allow for an enumeration of everyone's contribution, I'd like to ac-

knowledge The Brooklyn Paper's long-running employees who every day continue to make The Paper special.

• **Lisa Malwitz:** indispensable assistant, office manager, finance department, right hand and backbone of the operation since 1988.

• **Vince DiMichele:** He came onboard as a Bay Ridge reporter in 1996 and emerged as the go-to guy for pretty much everything, exceeding even the broadest definitions of his two positions—production manager and senior editor. Today, he is a leading voice for innovation in our entire industry (though he still lays out our front page every week).

• **Leah Mitch:** The art director since 1999, she created the GO Brooklyn logo and section's award-winning design, took our arts coverage online, and has steadily kept the creative juices flowing each week in design of all kinds.

• **Gersh Kuntzman:** The editor since 2005, Kuntzman is the only

winner of the "Triple Crown" of community journalism—winning the Suburban Newspapers of America awards for editor of the year, columnist of the year, and newspaper of the year all in the same 12-month period. Kuntzman is a true believer in The Brooklyn Paper's mission and in the value of promotion, re-energizing The Paper for a new era.

• **Eric Ross:** account executive since 2004, Ross has lent his humor and talent to his Brooklyn territory despite hailing from, and loving, New Jersey.

• **Sylvan Migdal:** Our Webmaster since joining us in 2006, Migdal rebuilt BrooklynPaper.com from the ground up, earning multiple awards for Best Web site in our class. His logos and sketches enhance our pages (a logo for our "Cleaning the Gowanus" series sets the standard—a guy in a Hazmat suit holding a toilet brush).

• And most importantly, **The Brooklyn Paper's publisher, Celia Weintrob**, who joined The Paper in 1985. Celia's shared not just The Paper, but my entire life; we married in 1989.

When I sold The Brooklyn Paper last March to a division of Rupert Murdoch's News Corp, it was with the satisfaction of knowing that The Paper's future was in the hands of a media company that understood the importance of community journalism and had a broad vision of its future possibilities—along with the means to get there.

The six months following the sale have been good ones for The Paper, and the future is promising.

With the obvious ferment in all media, only a fool would attempt to predict the future. Just as I didn't try to predict it 30 years ago, I won't try now.

But so long as our communities need a reliable source of information, and so long as businesses need a trustworthy avenue through which to communicate with their customers, there should be a place for The Brooklyn Paper—in whatever form technology may provide.

THE LINEUP: Here are people who have edited The Brooklyn Paper during its first 30 years



Beverly Chevront



Laurie Sue Brockway (Features Editor)



Ann V. Bollinger



Paul Toomey



Margaret Daly



Alison Tocci (General Manager)



Howard Altschiller



Diane Webber

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The Brooklyn Paper

30 years in OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

Our changing neighborhoods

The Brooklyn Paper

If there's one constant in Brooklyn over these last 30 years, it's change. A Rip Van Winkle waking up in a Brooklyn neighborhood after a three-decade

slumber might not be able to recognize the place. From the glistening new towers on the Williamsburg waterfront to Yuppies in Bay Ridge, this borough has

been in flux for all of our 30 years of covering it. Here's our look back at how each of the vibrant communities in our coverage area have changed over the years.

PARK SLOPE

When Clem Labine, one of the first so-called "brownstones," moved to Park Slope, it was vastly different from the way that the neighborhood is commonly conceived these days. There was "nary a stroller to be seen," he said.

"I had three kids when I moved in and there was nobody for them to play with," he said. "Now Park Slope is nationally famous for its double-wide strollers."

Labine, who is not related to the famous Brooklyn Dodger pitcher, wasn't in the market for a brownstone before he bought one on Berkeley Place for \$25,000.

He met Evelyn and Everett Ortnor, the couple credited for starting the brownstone movement, and they talked up the neighborhood and provided him — as well as many other prospective buyers from Manhattan and Long Island — with two pages worth of homes for sale.

"Brownstone living wasn't as fashionable back then," Labine said. "And not as expensive."

Much of the housing stock back in 1967 was run down and neglected. Many homes had been converted to Single Room Occupancy dwellings for workers at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and at manufacturing jobs down in the Gowanus. Many had absentee landlords. Seventh Avenue back then only had two places to eat: Purty Diner (still there, but in a different location) and Michelle's Restaurant on Flatbush Avenue.

The borders of the neighborhood



YOU COULD HAVE HAD IT FOR A SONG: This is Third Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues — now one of the most delightful blocks in Park Slope.

borderhood also were far tighter than they are now. Sixth Avenue was basically the border — past that and you were asking for gang trouble. And "Ninth Street was the end of the world," Labine said. One had to worry about the "presence of dragons" beyond Ninth Street.

Urban pioneers looking to move into Park Slope found homeowners eager to sell. They were primarily Irish and Italian families who felt they had nearly missed out on the great move to the suburbs and were looking to avoid being trapped in the neighborhood.

The pioneers would work 10-15 years to spruce up the neighborhood and make it safer and more interesting

Park Slope has seen the greatest new development on its fringes, particularly Fourth Avenue.

and then the New York Times would write about it and attract more economically advantaged people.

Over time, it builds and churns until you have a neighborhood the way it is now, with strollers and housing costing 100 times what it used to.

Yes, some of the small places that made the neighborhood worth visiting and living in are being driven out, and some say that Park Slope might be in its cultural death throes.

Jane Jacobs wrote that the two businesses that can afford to stay in a neighborhood once rents are jacked up too high are banks and real estate offices, Labine said.

"The Slope is filled with bankers and real estate offices," Labine said. But change brings new life, too. Fourth Avenue — once the farthest western frontier of the neighborhood — is now booming with luxury development, a boutique hotel and trendy bars that attract Williamsburg hipsters (ain't that a change?).

— Michael P. Ventura



The Brooklyn Paper started off Downtown — at 26 Court Street (pictured with helmetless laker in 1981). Today, the Paper's offices are in the Metrotech Center, which didn't even exist 30 years ago.

DOWNTOWN

When we started hovering Brooklyn, Downtown was holding on as a major hub for high-end retailers like the flagship location of Abraham & Strauss or the Martin's on Fulton Street.

"There had been a lot of major chain stores" in the neighborhood, said Michael Weiss, executive director of the Metrotech Business Improvement District and member of the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, an agency that works with the city to develop capital projects in the area.

During the 1970s, many of those chain stores started to go out of business and dragged down also retailers that fed off them. Crime overtook the neighborhood.

"It wasn't until recently that things got better," Weiss said. "For 20 years things were in decline."

An urban renewal project on Fulton Street in the early 1980s, which created the Fulton Mall, ended up doing the area more harm than good when construction stalled, blocking shoppers from reaching merchants.



The opening of Metrotech in 1995 was such a big deal that then-Mayor Giuliani joined then-Borough President Golden and other dignitaries — that's late great Councilwoman Mary Pinkett on the left with former Deputy Mayor Peter Power next to her. Former Forest City Ratner bigwig James Stuckey is on the right.

Weiss said that the construction of Metrotech, the \$1-billion office and university complex, pulled the neighborhood out of that decline. Development on the project began in the 1980s, and by the mid-1990s, when Metrotech was completed, prominent Manhattan businesses such as the Chase Manhattan Bank and New York Stock Exchange back offices moved in.

That set the tone for steady change for the last 10 to 15 years, Weiss said. Crime dropped. The streets were cleaned up. Businesses returned.

The complex also kept Polytechnic University anchored in Downtown Brooklyn, which encouraged schools, such as Brooklyn Law School, St. Francis College, and the Pratt Institute to expand. The student population in Downtown Brooklyn is now roughly 35,000.

Weiss said.

The crowning legacy of Metrotech, though, was the Marriott Hotel, the first hotel built in the borough in more than 50 years when construction started in 1996. It was so successful that demand forced the hotel to expand in several spots in the neighborhood.

What the neighborhood still lacks, however, are residents. After all, Metrotech only displaced roughly 250 people. The luxury condominiums that popped up like mushrooms after a 2005 up-zoning along the Flatbush Avenue corridor will bring thousands of new residents, and there is always talk that others will renovate the space above the Fulton Mall storefronts into apartments.

The newest trend is the advent of residents," Weiss said. "That's going to create a whole other sea change."

His hope is that as more people move into Downtown Brooklyn, retail and restaurants will follow. Which, in turn, will attract residents from the surrounding areas, perhaps making Brooklyn's shopping hub once again.

"Now it is safe and it is clean," Weiss said. "Retail doesn't lead a neighborhood, it follows as residents go in."

— Michael P. Ventura

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Partners Kenneth J. Wheeler and Greg Murjani recognized a need in Brownstone Brooklyn to solve these problems when the NYC Department of Sanitation recently announced that it will be ending its policy of picking up electronics left at curbside in the near future.

Wheeler feels it's a strong priority in the area not to simply throw away electronics. "This is an essential place to start," he said. "We've gotten a very high and positive level of response to 1-800 Mr. Rubbish Electronics Recycling so far."

Here are the items that can be dropped off: Computers (desktops and laptops), monitors, printers, fax machines, PDAs, cameras, phones, cables, cell phones, radios, calculators, copiers, switches, DVD players, VCR players and Tape players.

"Computers are big bundles of toxicity, between the plastics chemicals and trace metals," he said. "And TVs are the worst! Very difficult to break down, very labor intensive. None of that stuff really breaks down. But many of the components can be salvaged, taken apart and sent to be re-used."

Sometimes whole items, like laptop or desktop computers, can be refurbished and re-used as is, Murjani says. "We use a service that will certify that the memory is completely wiped clean, to the highest standards; the same protocols used by the US Department of Defense. Whether or not the computer can be fixed and used again or taken apart and used for parts, the former owner is guaranteed that it will never end up in a landfill," he says.

Murjani adds with a grin, "you can either drop it off at 88 Ninth Street between Smith Street and Second Avenue, or we will pick these unwanted items up for you, just like the knife sharpener truck that still come around on Saturdays, driving slowly and ringing a bell."

Wheeler and Murjani developed this program in conjunction with a non-profit organization in

one of the poorest neighborhoods in the Bronx, called PerScholas — Opportunities Through Education & Technology (www.perscholas.org). This outfit refurbishes computers for use by low income seniors and children. One of its initiatives is called Connecting 20,000 By 2012, which hopes to have 20,000 disadvantaged kids set up with their own computers by 2012.

"PerScholas charges \$5 for most drop off items to be re-serviced. We just pass along their fees and do not make any money ourselves on these items," Murjani said. He notes that the fee for TVs can be as high as \$75, due mainly to the difficulty of recapturing the elements in TVs that can be re-used. Peripherals such as keyboards and mice are no charge. Data destruction with certification, mentioned above, is \$10.

Wheeler said, "We want to be ready for the morning that New York City wakes up and realizes they can't put their TVs on the curb any more, and there are conscientious alternatives. That day is coming very soon."

Murjani is well versed in environmental sensitivity. As the founder of 1-800 Mr. Rubbish, a national franchise licensed to operate in all 50 states, he uses hybrid electric rubbish removal trucks with zero emissions, and is the national distributor of solar-powered Bill Belly public trash receptacles/compactors. "I want 1-800 Mr. Rubbish to be the greenest garbage company in America," he says. "If as a rubbish man can actually reuse 80% of the stuff that would normally get dumped in a landfill, think how healthy that would be for our environment. Once that stuff is in a landfill it is lost forever."

So far 1-800 Mr. Rubbish has seven franchises operating in the New York metro area: three in Brooklyn, three in Manhattan, and one in Queens. "Services range from picking up a single bag of refuse, to cleaning out a whole furnished basement, to clearing out construction sites," Murjani said. One of the services he offers is a dumpster that can be instructed by satellite signal to double its capacity, using folding doors that open up when the signal is received.

Best of all, each service mentioned above can be ordered online at www.1800mrrubbish.com, or by calling 1 (800) 677-8224.



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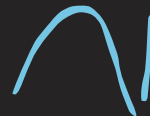
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The Brooklyn Paper

30 years in OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

To see Brooklyn Heights now is practically to see it as it was 30 years ago, if not more.

With a landmark designation and a height restriction of 50 feet imposed in the mid-1960s, development of luxury high rises that have come to dominate neighborhoods from Williamsburg to Downtown Brooklyn to DUMBO have been impossible in Brooklyn Heights.

But that doesn't mean that Brooklyn Heights hasn't participated in the borough's growth.

The neighborhood's resurgence began with One Pierrepont Place. That project, Forest City Ratner's first in the borough, kicked off not only the development of Downtown Brooklyn, but also provided a cautionary tale for the neighborhood. For years, the borough president's office had promised that the parking lot on which the development was built would become a hotel, not the home for Morgan Stanley that it would eventually become.



In 1996, there was a plan to turn this block of Court Street between Schermerhorn and State streets into a hotel. Instead, we got a multiplex and a Barnes and Noble.

From that battle, the Brooklyn Heights Association learned that it was important to dictate some of the terms of neighborhood development with government officials, not simply react to what was imposed on them. Therefore, when ideas were kicked around for revitalizing the neighborhood's waterfront, the BHA already had

commissioned a plan calling for a park — instead of, say, housing. That park was much smaller than — just piers 1-5. Eventually Pier 6 was added, along with park space to the north, making Brooklyn Bridge Park.

The restrictions on construction have not only maintained the architectural in-

tegrity of the neighborhood, but the upscale nature of it as well. The price of real estate has catapulted — whether it's rent or property taxes for small businesses in the neighborhood.

As prices have gone up, small merchants have been forced out. Butcher shops and five and dimes have given way to the Gap, Starbucks and Brown Harris Steves.

"We didn't have Banana Republic 30 years ago," said Judy Stanton, executive director of the Brooklyn Heights Association.

Jennifer Conventures was the first national chain in the neighborhood, Stanton recalled. That inspired others to follow, but given the relatively small storefronts, only chains of a certain size can find suitable space.

"Residents are supportive and want independent retailers and unique boutiques," in the neighborhood, but with the high cost of rent and taxes, it's hard for businesses other than chains to support them-



The view from the promenade (shown here in 1999) might have changed, but Brooklyn Heights has remained one of the most stable neighborhoods in Brooklyn.

selves there, Stanton said. Time was, Brooklyn Heights families would stash their children in private school before shuffling off to the suburbs. Now, "fam-

ilies are staying around and banding together," Stanton said. PS 8, for example, is crowded now and parents, who had largely overlooked the public school, are now

more involved in it. Those families are also excited about the opening of the first phases of Brooklyn Bridge Park, scheduled for early 2010. They're thrilled

about having access to the waterfront and a place to bring their children. "What's not to like about that?" Stanton said. —Michael P. Ventura



DUMBO has emerged as Brooklyn's artistic playground, with events like the DUMBO Arts Festival filling its streets, and rocks, with international talent.

DUMBO

For 21 years, the St. Ann's Warehouse performance space was in Brooklyn Heights before it moved to DUMBO in 2000. Prior to the move, almost all that Artistic Director Susan Feldman knew about the then-wilderness between the Manhattan and Brooklyn bridges was that it was used in the Ferrari scene in "Scat of a Woman."

She had never been there, despite the neighborhood's reputation for being an artists' enclave amid the rundown warehouses and abandoned ferry slips. Even so, for years it had been largely desolate. After all, a blind guy supposedly could drive sports cars through there and not hit anybody.

When St. Ann's moved to DUMBO, the neighborhood as we know it now had started to take shape. Criminals, of course, were there, as was Rice restaurant, but back then Jacques Torres was just starting his chocolate factory

and David Walentas's Two Trees Management was beginning to change the skyline.

"We felt, along with the developers, like we were building a neighborhood," Feldman said. "Now it feels like it's built."

DUMBO is an ironic name. Walentas, who bought up most of the warehouses in the 1970s and '80s, came up with the absurd acronym to give the neighborhood some panache. The name, though, didn't come into common parlance until the last decade. Even into the late 1990s, the always-late-to-the-party New York Times still referred to the neighborhood as the (gag) "inter-bridge area."

When St. Ann's opened in 2001, "people had no idea where it was," Feldman said. There wasn't even an ATM back then — that didn't come until Brooklyn's Independence Bank opened



KING DAVID: DUMBO titan David Walentas (seen here with Herman Badillo) owned a lot of then-undesirable buildings — a still unnamed DUMBO when this picture was taken in the 1980s. This view of Washington Street is now one of the most photographed places in Brooklyn.

there in 2003, she recalled. Feldman's group had to put up signs to direct patrons to their events. "Safety was still



a concern" as well, she said. Now, the theater draw up to 60,000 people a year. In that time, many of the in-

dividual artists who lived and worked down under the Manhattan Bridge overpass have been pushed out by rising rents.

—Michael P. Ventura

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The Brooklyn Paper

30 years in OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

CARROLL GARDENS

Buddy Scotto, a local funeral home director and community activist, once considered leaving Carroll Gardens and moving to Long Island. But his father didn't want to move to the suburbs, as many New Yorkers did as the city was heading downhill in the 1960s. So Scotto stayed, too.

Like so many other neighborhoods in Brooklyn at the time, the Italian enclave of Carroll Gardens was in a gradual decline. A plan to bring a container shipping facility to Red Hook meant big changes to the community that had always been tied closely to Brooklyn's waterfront.

"Everyone grew up with was the son or daughter of a longshoreman, stevedore, or trucker," said Scotto.

"Everything on the waterfront was to be demolished to make way" for the container port, Scotto said. People would have to be re-



Here's a typical scene in Carroll Gardens — and thanks to a rezoning, it may stay that way. Crime stats show that the nabe is one of the safest in the city.

located. The little mom and pop shops on Union Street and Columbia Street — like

Cioffi's, where people would line up to buy Italian pastries during the holidays — what

would become of them?" The plans led to panic, "A cloud of condemnation

fell over the place," Scotto said. "It got so bad, it felt like a bombed-out area."

Thus spawned Scotto's activism in the community. Over the next several years, he would form various organizations, work with politicians (regardless of party affiliation), and even rub elbows with Rockefeller and Astors to get money for improvements to the area. Through the Carroll Gardens Association, he helped create housing in abandoned buildings on Columbia Street.

In the end, of course, the massive container port never came to Brooklyn, opting for New Jersey, but Scotto remained active.

Through the Gowanus Canal Community Development Corp., he helped re-activate a 1911 flushing canal system that pumps fresh water into the highly polluted canal, and got funding to create a sewage treatment plant in Red Hook.

His belief was, if you help the depressed areas surrounding Carroll Gardens, you end up actually helping the neighborhood.

That belief holds true today as much of what's left of the neighborhood's Italian flavor gets diluted by a steady influx of young professionals that began decades ago.

Scotto calls them "beatniks" because they were "doing counter to what was going on, which was you move to the suburbs as you move up the economic ladder."

The "beatniks" moving in now, though, are making it very hard for the original community to stay. That's why Scotto is against the current plan to designate the Gowanus Canal zone a Superfund site — it would block hundreds of millions of dollars of investment, he said, some of which will be spent on affordable housing that will help stabilize home prices in Carroll Gardens.

"We're a so-called 'in' neighborhood and they're pushing the Italians out," Scotto said. "They are people that can afford the neighborhood, that's why we want affordable housing in the Gowanus."

— Michael P. Ventura



Carroll Gardens legend Buddy Scotto (center) talked about the Gowanus Canal with late great Assemblywoman Eileen Dugan and then-Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (in dapper suit) in this mid-1980s shot.

RED HOOK



Red Hook was hit hard by the failed containerization plan of the 1960s. In many ways, it's still struggling to recover.

Zoning changes were made to the area and buildings were condemned for the port that never materialized.

Most of the shipping jobs that had come to define the neighborhood workforce had moved over to New Jersey, where a large container port with direct rail access to the continental United States was eventually built.

Industrial and manufacturing jobs fled out of the neighborhood. Crime and arson jumped. All that drove many residents away — since then, the population has been cut in half, according to John McGettrick, co-chair of the Red Hook Civic Association.

By the 1980s, when McGettrick moved to the neighborhood, Red

Hook had become the city's dumping ground. There were up to 20 waste transfer stations in the neighborhood. Two sludge processing facilities were planned. The community fought back and those plans were scrapped, McGettrick said. They were able to close most of the garbage stations — only one remains. A cement plant was closed.

"For the most part, it's changed for the better in the 21 years I've been here," McGettrick said. For example, Louis Valentino Jr. Park and Pier opened in 1996, adding needed green space to the area. But there is still plenty of more to do to get the neighborhood to thrive.

"We need more housing, obviously," McGettrick said. That would involve rezoning the neighborhood for more residential uses, which the

city hasn't yet done — some say in a misguided belief that the longshoreman economy will return. It isn't, but if another industry moved into Red Hook, it could coexist around any new residential space, which is needed to attract other types of small businesses to the neighborhood.

For the time being, though, it seems Red Hook is being eyed for big box stores. Fairway supermarket opened in 2006, followed by Ikea in 2008, and McGettrick said he is "apprehensive about the possibility" of more similar stores coming in to the area. Those attract auto traffic for the most part, despite Ikea's ferry service. The B61 bus is the only way into and out of Red Hook and walking is not ideal in the winter, when harsh, cold winds punch in from the harbor.

Improvements on the B61 are in the works, McGettrick said, but he'd like to see a bus that goes straight to lower Manhattan (it was talked about, but scrapped, in the last round of cuts), or a light rail set up along the waterfront to connect to the under-construction Brooklyn Bridge Park. Anything to alleviate Red Hook's isolation.

Still, there's a "very strong artistic community in Red Hook and many of them own their own properties and galleries," McGettrick said. That means that Red Hook, unlike other parts of Brooklyn such as Williamsburg, Fort Greene or DUMBO won't lose its artists if the neighborhood ever fully bounces back.

— Michael P. Ventura



Some parts of Brooklyn were a real dump back in the early 1980s. Here, residents clean up a vacant lot at Hamilton Avenue and Nelson Street in Red Hook. But former cop Greg O'Connell (right) believed in the neighborhood's future — and bought buildings like the one now housing Fairway.

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The Brooklyn Paper

30 years in OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

BAY RIDGE

Robert Moses executed one punch on Bay Ridge. With a right, he crossed the Gowanus Expressway through the neighborhood, parting it from Sunset Park. With the left, he hit Bay Ridge with an uppercut in the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge. When the bridge, the longest suspension span in the United States at 9,865 feet, opened in 1964, it had forced the relocation of roughly 7,000 Brooklynites. Since then, it's brought traffic to the area as people from New Jersey use the free ride across the bridge to take the expressway up to Manhattan to take advantage of the free crossings at the Manhattan and Brooklyn bridges.

The Verrazano's towers have loomed high over Bay Ridge since then as well and have served as a symbol of the city's callous disdain for its neighborhoods before eventually become a source of pride as many local businesses have named themselves after it. But back in the 1960s, many people across the city and south Brooklyn were leaving, with or without help from Moses. A promised container port never materialized and ended up devastating much of the Brooklyn waterfront, driving away residents and driving up crime. Bay Ridge, where many dockworkers had lived, was not immune to the sharp downturn, but many residents decided to stick by the neighborhood and ride out the bad times, which made for a more closely knit community.

Bay Ridge is often thought of as an Italian neighborhood because of movies like "Saturday Night Fever," said Victoria Hofmo of the Bay Ridge Conservancy. But many more people of diverse backgrounds live there as well, including traditionally Irish, Greeks, and Scandinavians and, more recently, Latinos, Middle Easterners and Chinese.

The neighborhood is "welcoming to new people," Hofmo said, while it retains a sense of community that has always been strong there. "The common culture is here, very much alive," she said, adding that she still recognizes many faces around the neighborhood and many people who have left also come back to visit. Hofmo notes that the texture of the neighborhood reveals its Scandinavian roots and gives the lie to those who ascribe to Italian dominance of Bay Ridge. The protestant churches go back more than 100 years and were built in a Scandinavian style. Norwegians also started the local medical center, and built an old-folks home, too. She remembers a time, also, when Norwegian was taught in



the local high school. Time was that a new immigrant group would come to Bay Ridge every 15 years or so. "Now they're coming quicker," Hofmo said. "That doesn't mean it won't change again." When it does, the new folks will be welcomed too, while expected also to "respect what already exists," she said. —Michael P. Ventura



Coney has seen a burst of activity in recent years, including a city land buy-out, the opening of KeySpan Park, and the closing of Astroland. The Wonder Wheel (pictured) remains intact.

CONEY ISLAND

Not everything that looks bombed out is necessarily bad — particularly out on Coney Island. Thirty years ago, when Dick Zigun, founder of the Coney Island Circus Sideshow and erstwhile "Mayor of Coney Island," came to the neighborhood, there were still vestiges of what it looked like when it was the city's playground. "There was so much infrastructure and architecture and personality from its heyday," Zigun said. And some of the personalities of that era were still living there, among the vestigial tridents and mermaids. "You got a real sense of the historic Coney Island."

Now, 75 percent of that is gone, he said, replaced by vacant lots as decrepit history has been torn down. For example, there was the Thunderbolt rollercoaster that had a house underneath it. Both were torn out, illegally, Zigun added, by the Giuliani administration. "[Before that], the Lindsay Administration and [Robert] Moses dumped a lot of housing projects here without a job base," he said. Since then, investment in the area has helped provide jobs and the growing Russian community out there has helped revitalize the entire area from Brighton Beach to Bensonhurst.

Despite the empty lots, a lot of the old Coney Island is still visible. The Cyclone, of course, is there, as is the Wonder Wheel and the Parachute Drop. Joining them soon should be restored B & B Carousel, a historic ride that the city saved from the scrap heap. And what about the personalities that make Coney Island so unique? They're still "alive in terms of eccentric nutjobs like me," Zigun said. "My job is to preserve artifacts and behave in an ostentatious way."



Neighborhood fixture Dick Zigun (above) and the annual Mermaid Parade (right) have kept the quirk in Coney. —Michael P. Ventura



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The Brooklyn Paper

30 years in OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

WILLIAMSBURG

Brooklyn Brewery beer is now a premier Friday night lubricant for hipsters and other young people who flood the bars and clubs that glut the major avenues of Greenpoint and Williamsburg.

But when the brewery opened more than 20 years ago on Meserole Street in nearby Bushwick, things were different.

"The trucks delivering beer to the warehouse would not come after dark," said Steve Hindy, co-founder of Brooklyn Brewery. "They were afraid."

Crime was crippling in the late 1980s, and it was still lurking in 1991 when Hindy and his company moved to N. 11th Street and Berry Street in Williamsburg. He remembers the junkies. He remembers being robbed at gunpoint at the brewery when a bandit made off with \$30,000 in 1995.



Steve Hindy

Gradually, things improved, following a course of gentrification that has since become nearly cliché. Artists and creative people pushed out of SoHo were taking up residence among the established black, Latino, Italian, Polish and Orthodox Jewish communities in the northernmost Brooklyn neighborhoods by the early

1980s. They made the neighborhood cool and, after a decade or so, the artists were pushed aside by the trust-fundaries, or hipsters with a wealthy background. They made the neighborhood hot for bars and clubs and restaurants and Starbucks and luxury condos.

But the hipsters' disposable income, along with that of the yuppies and professionals who followed them, also inspired reclamation of the area's decaying waterfront, bringing the prospect of new parks and open space, along with luxury dwellings that popped up like mushrooms after the 2005 upzoning of the waterfront.

"It's been a revolution here," Hindy said.

When Brooklyn Brewery started, in an area of the borough once known 100 years ago as brewers row, Hindy delivered to five customers.



The only once in Williamsburg was Teddy's Bar and Grill, which is still open and is one of the oldest continuously operated bars in the city. Now there must be more than 300 bars, restaurants and clubs in

the area, Hindy said. Despite the "tremendous influx of young people" into the neighborhood, many of the traditional communities survive. The Orthodox Jewish community is going

strong, and Polish is still the dominant language of Manhattan Avenue. Italians can still be found along Union Avenue, though that population is aging. With the influx of young



The Williamsburg Bridge (left) remains the gateway to a neighborhood that has seen dramatic changes. The Domino Sugar plant will soon become thousands of units of housing. Meanwhile, the influx of hipsters (above, on their bikes) has pushed deep into the Hasidic south side of the neighborhood.

people and the high rents they brought with them, Hindy worried he, too, might be pushed out of the neighborhood. But the economic downturn was a blessing in disguise as Brooklyn Brew-

ery not only renewed its lease, but has plans to expand.

"We're glad to stay here," Hindy said. "In the gold rush, it looked like we might not be able to."

—Michael P. Ventura



Fort Greene Park now attracts soccer players on the grass instead of drug fiends high on it. Even the monument (background) has been relighted.

FORT GREENE

Danny Simmons used to hang out in the clubs on DeKalb Avenue back in the 1980s, before he moved to the neighborhood in 1992.

"It was tough, it was gritty" back then, he said, but it "wasn't a dangerous neighborhood as other were during the same period." It was a working-class black neighborhood of brownstones that also had a thriving artists community, based around the Pratt Institute, woven into it. That scene attracted Simmons, and he opened the Corridor Gallery on Grand Street in 1993.

Since then, "the most significant change I've seen is the amount of artists in the neighborhood." Following the pattern of gentrification that has changed so many other artsy Brooklyn neighborhoods, Fort Greene's artists, who made the neighborhood cool, were followed by young professionals who brought in higher rents.

"As the neighborhood got more services and got more appealing, it got more upper middle class people," Simmons said. If you didn't own your own space, "you got



forced out."

Back before gentrification, artists were able to find studio space in former manufacturing buildings practically abandoned as industry left Brooklyn. Many of those spaces are now loft apartments and condos.

Even so, Fort Greene hasn't followed "that classic simplistic gentrification," said Ursula Hegewisch, a local business owner, commu-



nity activist and resident since 2001. "It's not just upper middle class white people moving into the neighborhood. It's all people. It's not a homogeneous neighborhood in any way."

Back when he moved in, Simmons recalls that there were maybe five or six restaurants that had been serving the neighborhood for a long time. Now, the area is full of them. DeKalb Ave-



Danny Simmons has seen all of Fort Greene's changes, including the opening of Chez Lola on Myrtle Ave (left).

ue and Myrtle (once known as "Murder") Avenue have become virtual restaurant rows, he said, and the area around the Brooklyn Academy of Music has filled in with bars, eateries and other nightspots.

Along with food, the neighborhood is interested in preserving its history, whether it's Fort Greene's connection to Walt Whitman (who helped create Fort Greene Park) or to the Underground Railroad and abolition or to African-American artists who have lived there.

"People really do care about what's going on in the neighborhood," Hegewisch said. "In a good way, not in a busybody way."

—Michael P. Ventura

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The Brooklyn Paper

30 years of PHOTOS

Shots from the heart

Photographer Tom Callan looks back at 25 years of snaps

By Sabrina Jaszi
for The Brooklyn Paper

Our photographer Tom Callan has been shooting Brooklyn for longer than a mob henchman. And he's got the scars to prove it. Whether getting beaten up by Mike Tyson in 1998 or by thugs at the notorious Club Wild-

fyre in the late 1980s, Callan has been getting in people's faces for years. He's quite simply the Avedon of community journalism. As such, we invited him to share with you his favorite photos and stories from his 25 years with The Brooklyn Paper.



Callan caught this shot of Bertha Lewis, head of ACORN, embracing Mayor Bloomberg—an updated version of the famously repulsive Brezhnev-Honecker kiss—in the Borough Hall courtroom after the passing of the Atlantic Yards Community Benefits Agreement in 2005. “She was so happy she just went and planted one on his lips,” Callan said. “It happened so fast. I was the only one who got that shot.”



“I read a little article about a German photographer hired to take a picture of all these cabs at the beach on Coney Island, so I went down there to see what I could get,” said Callan about this posed 1994 photograph of cabbies atop their vehicles. Frederic Brenner’s version of the shot is part of the collection at the Brooklyn Museum. Callan’s remains a permanent part of ours.



“Look, I was in a helicopter,” Callan said.



As always, Callan was in the right place when Brad Pitt was filming “Burn After Reading” on State Street in 2007. OK, so the location was just outside of his backyard, but Pitt was no easy mark. Though it looks like Pitt is merely waving to the shutter-bug, he was actually raising a hand in protest. “He wasn’t happy. He said ‘Hey! I’m rolling, I’m rolling, here’ when I took the picture,” said Callan.



Callan captured the Brooklyn Heights promenade on a winter day in this stand-alone picture from 1991. “I was looking for a shot when a person came walking towards me out of nowhere. I like how it looks like it’s a black-and-white picture, even though it’s in color.”



The photographer took this ethereal picture of a firefighter when the city was demolishing buildings to make way for MetroTech Center in 1989. Sid’s Hardware caught fire, and it was so smoky that Callan almost couldn’t see anything. Then the wind blew. “I was sitting at the foot of the fire truck and this guy just popped out of the smoke. He looked so serene, in his element. Then he disappeared like he was going into a cloud.”



In this dramatic photograph taken at the 2004 Coney Island Mermaid Parade it almost looks as though the fire eater is blowing a cloud into the sky. “I liked the contrast of the orange flame against the bright blue sky,” said Callan.

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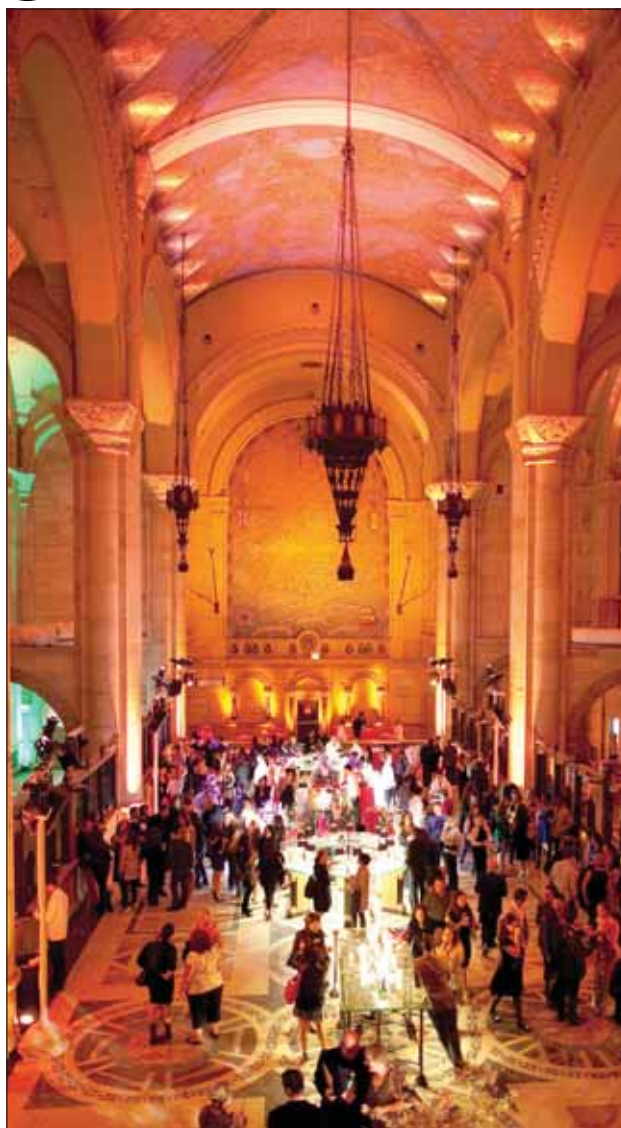
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The Brooklyn Paper

Then & now

Brooklyn has changed, yet we're still talking about the same projects

By Michael P. Ventura

for The Brooklyn Paper
Brooklyn is certainly not the same as it was in 1978 when the first issue of The Brooklyn Paper rolled off the printing press. Yet our first issues contained coverage of some of the exact same development projects that make headlines today.

From Brooklyn Bridge Park to Atlantic Yards to the Gowanus Canal to the Fulton Mall, the pace of development in this borough has been slow and not always so steady.

Here's some of those great stories:

ATLANTIC YARDS

It seems like there's always been an Atlantic Yards project at the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues. It's where Walter O'Malley wanted to move his Dodgers, but Robert Moses had other ideas. Moses wanted to build a baseball stadium in Queens and have the Dodgers go there. But, as everyone knows, instead of Flushing, O'Malley chose Los Angeles (and ignoring).

The Atlantic Yards site remained an underdeveloped rail yard for decades after that, though developer Bruce Ratner had his eye on it since at least the 1980s.

He had just built Metrotech, but shifted his attention to the Vanderbilt Yards. First he built the much-reviled Atlantic Center Mall across the street. Then he built the slightly better Atlantic Terminal Mall, with its busiest Target in the country.

In 2003, Ratner finally unveiled his plan for Atlantic Yards—a 16-skyscraper residential, hotel, office and commercial complex with a basketball arena at the core. His goal was to move his just-



purchased New Jersey Nets to Brooklyn—a goal that earned him the uncritical support of most of the local elected officials even though some of the people they represent (especially some who were slated to be evicted) opposed it.

The project was approved in 2006, and for a few minutes, it looked like Ratner might actually meet his goal of having a Nets tip-off in Brooklyn by 2009.

Lawsuits followed, but whatever damage they did towards undermining Ratner's ability to raise money to finance the project, the economy has done most of that job.

To cut costs, Ratner fired the project's main calling card—architect Frank Gehry. Then, citing his own economic woes, the developer wrestled more concessions from the state, allowing him more time to build—and more time to pay for the land on which he intends to do it. Earlier this year, he even sold 80 percent of the team to Russia's wealthiest man, Mikhail Prokhorov.

It remains to be seen whether Ratner will get shows in the ground before Dec. 31, his last chance to qualify for tax-exempt bonds to fund the project.

If he misses that deadline, the project could be dead.

DOWNTOWN PLAN

Downtown Brooklyn was the center of the borough's shopping universe. The flagship store of Abraham & Straus department store was there. And so was Martin's, another high-end retailer.

But the economic crisis of the 1970s forced many of those businesses to close, and crime and blight settled in. A plan in the early 1980s to spruce up the area hit construction snags that hindered customers from shopping at the few retailers who were left.

Now, it's a schizophrenic neighborhood. The Fulton Mall—as it became known—is the busiest shopping street in the borough, albeit mostly with low-end merchandise. And at night, it's dark, lonely and ominous.

That was supposed to change with the construction of Bruce Ratner's Metrotech. After nearly a decade of planning, ground broke in June 1989 on the \$1-billion "Metropolitan Technology Center," an office complex that displaced 250 residents and 100 business owners to



At the time of the groundbreaking, the complex already had as anchor tenants a subsidiary of the New York Stock Exchange and the Brooklyn Union Gas Company, as well as an expansion of Polytechnic University, which was a developer of the site along with Ratner.

City officials then also touted two new buildings to be built by Chase Manhattan Bank that would house roughly 5,000 clerical and support personnel. The city persuaded Chase to

come to Brooklyn by offering \$235 million in tax breaks and other incentives, which was, at the time, the costliest incentive package the city had given to a firm to stay in New York. By one estimate, the city lost \$47,000 revenue to incentives per job saved. The previous high had been \$25,000 through a 1986 plan to keep NBC at Rockefeller Center.

Metrotech inspired other construction projects, including, in 1996, the construction of the Marriott, the first hotel built in Brooklyn in 50 years. And Lawrence Street is home to the borough's tallest building (for now), the 51-story all-rental Brooklyn Tower.

And a subsequent rezoning of the Flatbush Avenue corridor in 2005 has already resulted in residential housing boom—with several apartment towers and plans for a park at the center.

The economy has stalled the boom—for now—but thousands of units are already built and thousands more are on the drawing board.

Will Fulton Mall ever realize the planners' vision of a shopping capital for all of Brooklyn? That'll take some doing.

EXPERIENCE HISTORY AT GREEN-WOOD

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30 years of DEVELOPMENT STORIES

BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK

Why not blame New Jersey for the Brooklyn Bridge Park saga that's engulfed Brooklyn's waterfront neighborhoods for the better part of three decades? After all, it was cheap land in Elizabeth and Newark that tempted the container shipping industry to drift across the harbor after World War II, causing the slow disintegration of piers and warehouses from DUMBO to Red Hook.

The 1.3-mile-long, 85-acre park is scheduled to be completed in 2012, according to the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation, the state agency overseeing it. Roughly 8.2 acres will be occupied by a hotel and condo units that officials say will generate enough revenue to cover \$15.2-million annual operations and maintenance costs. (They're both on hold, of course, pending an uptick in the economy.)

The idea for a park from Old Fulton Street to Atlantic Avenue has been talked about since the early 1980s,



Parts of the 1.3-mile waterfront park and development, seen in this fancy rendering, may open to the public later this year.

and it was included in a waterfront development study by the Department of City Planning in 1990.

By 1994, 13 guiding principles were established for park development. One such principle? "The site shall have only so much commercial development in a park-like setting as is necessary to enliven the area, to provide security and to finance ongoing operations."

By the late 1990s, developer David Walentas already had projects underway to overhaul DUMBO and he put forward a waterfront redevelopment plan that some worried would compete with the proposed park. That \$300-million proposal included a multiplex theater, retail space and a hotel designed by architect Jean Nouvel. Public disapproval killed that plan.

A waterfront park, with or without retail, didn't sit well in Brooklyn Heights. Many worried a new park would attract traffic, litter and crime, a position that park backers said smacked of (or best) elitism. As the New York Times put it, "Park boosters do not understand how people could oppose building a park on a fallow strip of land with such extraordinary views, especially when the alternative could be luxury housing or a mall."

Brooklynites ended up with both, thanks to a state takeover of the project.

By 2001, the \$150-million park plan had commitments of \$65 million from the city, and \$57 million from the state. Of course, the final price tag has ballooned to more than \$350 million, making it unlikely that the entire park will get built any time soon, but passive recreation areas at the foot of Old Fulton Street and Atlantic Avenue are slated to open by the end of this year or in January, 2010.

GOWANUS CANAL

When the city launched its plan to clean up the Gowanus Canal, Brooklynites rejoiced. A flotilla of party barges processed up the two-mile tidal creek-turned-canal passing fisheries adored in hunting. The party-goers then marched up to Fourth Avenue. At last, the New York Times reported, south Brooklyn's "rehabilitation from the evil angels given forth by murky waters of Gowanus Canal" was at hand.

It was 1911. Nearly 100 years after the city celebrated the opening of a flushing tunnel to bring cleaner New York Harbor water into the canal, the greenish silt that seems to have served as a catch basin for everything foul—from untreated sewage to heavy metals to slag to PCBs—still stinks.

But now a new odor is wafting over the canal—the smell of money. Real-estate speculators have followed artists into the canal zone looking to trade what little cache there is for condos and housing and even a Whole Foods.

Back in 1911, the mayor opened the flushing tunnel, despite his skepticism about the health effects of the canal's contaminants.

"I never heard of anyone dying from the smell," Mayor William Jay Gaynor said at the ceremony.

He was assassinated two years later.

Like Gaynor, Mayor Bloomberg believes that the canal is a key to redeveloping the area. But his clean-up plan is controversial—given that he only unveiled it after the Environmental Protection Agency moved to have the area designated a Superfund site. Such a designation allows the federal government to sue polluters and, eventually, get their money to clean the canal.

The mayor has said that such a plan would stigmatize the area, driving out would-be housing developers. Plus, Bloomberg says his clean-up will be faster.

That said, the city is one of the biggest polluters in the canal zone. Whenever there's a strong rain, raw sewage—300 million gallons of it a year, people—spills into the canal's tidal flow makes the water brackish and incapable of supporting life.

The flushing tunnel was supposed to change all that by drawing water from the East River through a 12-foot tunnel along Degraw and Douglass streets.

The propeller that pulls in the water broke in 1960 and then nearly faded into memory before Buddy Scott, a funeral home proprietor and community activist from Carroll Gardens, lobbied the White House and secured money in the 1970s. The propeller was finally fixed and turned on in 1999.

Two months after the fresh

water returned, crabs were seen in the canal for the first time in years.

Other life has been spotted,

too. In recent years, the canal has become an artists haven—with even a houseboat.

But the real future of the

Gowanus Canal has not been written.

Until the feds or Mike Bloomberg clean up the water, the area will remain the way it has been since the last time city officials said that a clean-up was imminent.

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

November 20, 2009

FOODfare

Sweet Melissa serves up a complete Thanksgiving meal

Melissa Murphy may be one of the last Thanksgiving traditionalists. But just because the chef-owner of the Sweet Melissa Patisserie chain adheres all the seasonal classics—cranberry sauce, stuffing, baked apples and mashed potatoes—doesn't mean she didn't want to take a new look at our Great National Feast.

Granted, Murphy is one of the best bakers in the borough—but GO Brooklyn decided it was time for her to step up to the really big plate: cooking an entire Thanksgiving meal and sharing the recipes with our readers.

From her bacon-wrapped dates to her

mushroom soup to her savory bread pudding to her parsnip and garlic mashed potatoes all the way through to her turkey and her award-winning apple pie, Murphy has crafted a special edition that will be a keepsake for years.

Enjoy. But don't read with your mouth full.

Melissa Murphy is the chef-owner of Sweet Melissa Patisserie, 1775 Seventh Ave., between First and Second streets in Park Slope, (718) 788-2700, 276 Court St., between Butler and Douglass streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 855-3401. Full menu at sweetmellisapatisserie.com.

Lots more recipes on page 23



Our own "Sweet" Melissa Murphy poses for the "money shot" of Thanksgiving: a perfectly roasted bird. For full color pictures of all her other creations in this exclusive recipe package, see BrooklynPaper.com.

Cider Brined Roasted Organic Turkey

Makes a 15-pound turkey for 12 people with some leftovers

FOR THE BRINE

- 1 tablespoon black peppercorns
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh ginger, unpeeled
- 1-1/2 teaspoons allspice berries
- 1-1/2 teaspoons juniper berries
- 1 teaspoon whole cloves
- 5 pieces whole star anise
- 5 cinnamon sticks
- 2 sprigs fresh rosemary
- 1 cup kosher salt
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar
- 2 quarts chicken stock
- Cold water to cover
- 2 trays ice cubes

FOR THE AROMATICS

- 1 apple, quartered
- 1 small onion, quartered
- 1 clementine, halved
- 2 sprigs fresh sage
- 2 sprigs rosemary
- 2 cinnamon sticks

Cut a piece of cheesecloth eight inches square. Place the peppercorns, ginger, allspice, juniper, cloves, star anise, cinnamon, and rosemary in the center of the cloth and tie together with kitchen twine.

In a large pot, combine the salt,

brown sugar, apple cider and spice bag. Bring to a simmer over medium heat for five minutes, cover and set aside to steep for 30 minutes. Uncover and allow to cool. Remove the spice bag and discard. (The brining liquid can be made to this point and refrigerated up to five days ahead.)

In a pot large enough to hold the turkey, combine the brining liquid and chicken stock. Remove the giblet bag inside and rinse the turkey. Submerge the turkey, breast side down, in the brining liquid and add enough cold water to cover. Place the ice cubes—which tighten the skin—on top, cover and refrigerate for at least eight hours, or up to 18 hours.

At least one hour before roasting, remove the turkey from the brine, rinse and drain well. Allow to air dry in the refrigerator for at least one hour.

Stuff the turkey with the aromatics. Tie the legs closed with kitchen twine.

Set a rack in the center of the oven, have ready a roasting pan and rack large enough to hold the turkey. Preheat the oven to 500 degrees. Rub the turkey all

over with vegetable oil. Make a foil triangle that is large enough to cover the entire topside of the breast. Fit it to the turkey, to form a shield, and then carefully remove the shield and set aside for later (place it down carefully so the foil shield keeps its shape). Sprinkle the entire bird lightly with salt. Insert a meat thermometer into the thickest part of the breast, being careful not to hit the bone. Place the turkey on the rack in the pan and roast to develop a beautiful golden brown color.

After one-half hour, decrease the temperature to 350 degrees, place the foil shield over the breast, and cook for an additional two to two-and-a-half hours until the thermometer reads 165 degrees. Remove from oven, cover entirely with foil and let rest for 10 minutes before carving.

FOR THE GRAVY

- 1-1/2 tablespoons butter
- 1-1/2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 carrot, sliced into 1/4-inch rounds
- 1 rib of celery, sliced into 1/4-inch rounds
- 1 small onion, thinly sliced

Contents of giblet bag, rinsed, neck cut into two-inch pieces.

2 tablespoons flour

4 cups chicken stock

2 bay leaves

1 teaspoon brown sugar

Juice of 1/2 lemon

Kosher salt and pepper

In a heavy bottomed soup pot,

melt the butter with the oil over medium high heat. Add the carrots, celery, onion, one teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon black pepper and cook until slightly softened, about eight minutes.

Add the giblets, increase the heat to high and brown the pieces, stirring occasionally, 10-15 minutes. Add the flour and stir well to combine. Keep stirring for an additional two minutes.

Meanwhile, heat the stock in a medium pot until hot. Slowly whisk the stock into the browned giblet mixture. Add the bay leaves and brown sugar and stir to combine. Bring the gravy to a simmer and reduce until the desired consistency. Add the lemon juice and season to taste with salt and pepper. Strain the gravy, discarding the solids, and keep warm until serving.

Bacon-Wrapped Medjool Dates

Makes three dozen hors d'oeuvres

18 Medjool dates, pitted,

cut lengthwise in half

36 whole blanched almonds

12 strips center cut bacon

Line a four-sided cookie sheet

with non-stick cooking spray.

Place one almond into the

center of each date half. Pinch

and roll the date around the almond.

Cut the bacon into thirds,

lengthwise. Wrap each date in a piece of bacon and place cut side down on the greased foil.

When ready to bake, center a rack in the middle of your oven and preheat to 350 degrees. Bake for 15-20 minutes until the bacon is cooked. Serve warm.

NIGHTLIFE

Major news

The tarot reading made it clear: "It's not in the cards!" But bar owner Jesse Levitt ignored the cautious divinations and took inspiration from a different occult orion: He's steered his destiny to bustling Washington Avenue, where on Nov. 20 he'll open a new Americana-laden drinkspot filled with Coney Island-style ambience called the Minor Arcana.

Levitt (pictured) says he turned a dismal New Year's Day reading at a Brighton Beach tarot den—a larkish test of the cosmos which foretold of "bad times" for his new venture—into canny manna: The will to carry on with launching a bar amid the worst recession ever.

But instead of listening to the reading, Levitt, who also owns Kings County in Bushwick, merley renamed his bar from the Flying Monkey to the Minor Arcana, a tarot term that refers to the set of prescribed destinies that one can actually change.

To play up the occult angle, the artsy saloon will feature a cabinet of curiosities; a custom-built tempered glass bar that will feature three-dimensional work from local artists; and 1930s-style adverts with modern takes on freak show icons like the strongman and the bearded lady on the walls.

And the vibe? Chill, not shrill.

"It's a neighborhood spot that's a fun place to raise a glass; a drinker's bar," Levitt said.

The artworks are "conversation starters."

The Minor Arcana (706 Washington Ave. between Prospect and St. Marks places in Prospect Heights, no phone yet) Opens on Nov. 20.

—Shane Kane

DINING

'Horse' food

Plenty of bars show European football matches, but at the long-awaited Black Horse Pub in Park Slope, you can watch Manchester United live while eating fried eggs, Irish bacon, black pudding, sausage, baked beans, mushrooms, grilled tomatoes, and fried toast—and wash it down with a spot of tea or a pint of Guinness.

"To get a man out here and watch football at 10 in the morning, you need the full English breakfast," said Brian McNally, the co-owner of the Black Horse Pub. "This isn't just for Brits, but for the entire neighborhood."

And if you miss the morning football, there's also a Sunday afternoon roast—a big beef seasoned with thyme, rosemary, and sage, and surrounded with brussels sprouts, broccoli, cauliflower, potatoes, and Yorkshire pudding.

"It makes us feel like we're at home eating Ma's roast on a Sunday," said David Sheeran, president of the Barnstonsworth Rovers, a Manhattan football club who was drinking and eating with his teammates on a recent Sunday.

Mick Baldwin, co-owner and head chef, said that Sheeran had perfectly captured the goal of this Cockney castle.

"We are a neighborhood bar, serving residents some good comfort food, and everyone's a winner, you know what I mean, mate?" he said.

The Black Horse Pub (568 Fifth Ave. at 16th Street in Park Slope, (718) 788-1975).

—Will Yakowicz

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A colorful illustration of various pumpkins and gourds, including a large orange pumpkin, a yellow squash, and several smaller gourds in purple, green, and orange, some with stems and leaves.

Savory Bread Pudding with Sausage and Escarole

Makes 12 servings
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 large onion, peeled, cut in half, and thinly sliced crosswise (roughly one and one-half cups sliced)
2 cloves garlic, peeled and minced
1 pound fresh mild Italian sausage (about four links), casings removed
1/2 of a large head of escarole, thinly sliced and washed thoroughly (about two quarts sliced)
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
2 tablespoons water
6 large eggs
1-1/2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
1-1/2 teaspoons salt
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
1/8 teaspoon freshly ground nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon paprika
1-1/2 cups whole milk
1-1/2 cups shredded Gruyère or Swiss cheese
10 cups (one-inch cubed) French or country-style day- (or two-) old bread

Pour oil into a large sauté pan over medium heat. Add onion and stir often until soft and lightly browned, about 10-12 minutes. Stir in garlic and crumble sausage into pan. Stir often until meat is no longer pink, eight to 10 minutes, using a wooden spoon to break up the

meat if necessary. Add escarole to sausage mixture in pan and reduce heat to low. Season with salt and pepper and add the two tablespoons of water. Stir until escarole is wilted, about four minutes. Remove pan from heat.

In a large bowl, whisk the eggs, Dijon, salt, pepper, nutmeg and paprika until combined. Whisk in the milk and heavy cream. Stir in one cup Gruyère (reserve the remaining half cup for sprinkling over the top).

When ready to bake, combine the custard and the sausage mixture in a very large mixing bowl. Add the bread cubes and combine well. Let the mixture soak for at least 30 minutes, and up to two hours, depending on how dry your bread is. (There should be no "crispy" pieces of bread in the mixture after soaking.) Set a rack in the middle of the oven and preheat to 350 degrees. Scrape mixture into a buttered nine-inch by 13-inch baking dish and spread evenly. Sprinkle the bread pudding with the remaining cheese.

Bake until top is golden and pudding is slightly "puffed," about 35 to 45 minutes or until a knife inserted in the middle comes out mostly clean. If top is brown after 30 minutes, cover loosely with foil and continue to bake. Serve warm.

Roasted Wild Mushroom Soup with Sherry

Makes 12 servings
2-1/2 pounds assorted mushrooms (cremini, portobello, shitake and white button), cut into one-inch pieces
3/4 cup olive oil
1 large onion
3 carrots, peeled, halved, and cut into 1/4-inch slices
3 celery ribs, halved and cut into 1/4-inch slices
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
1 tablespoon fresh thyme, chopped coarsely
2 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped coarsely
5 cups Vegetable Stock
1-1/2 cups heavy cream
1/2 cup dry sherry
Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper

Position the oven racks in the top and bottom thirds of the oven. Preheat to 350 degrees. Spray two cookie sheets lightly with non-stick cooking spray.

In a large heavy-bottomed pot set over medium heat, combine onion, carrots, celery, cumin, remaining olive oil, one teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper. Cover and cook while stirring occasionally until softened, about 20 minutes.

Add the roasted mushrooms and cover with the vegetable stock. Bring to a simmer, and cook for 15 minutes. Add the fresh parsley and thyme and cook for an additional five minutes.

Puree the soup with an immersion blender or in a standard blender (in batches) until desired consistency. Return to soup pot, and stir in heavy cream and sherry. Add additional vegetable stock if the soup is too thick. Season with additional salt and pepper to taste. Serve in a large bowl, combine the mushrooms with 1/2 cup of olive oil, two tea-

Baked Forelli Pears with Salty Pistachios

Makes 12 servings
Juice of 1 lemon
1 cup of water
6 Forelli Pears
1/2 cup dry sherry
1/2 cup vegetable stock
Kosher salt and pepper
FOR THE SPICE BUTTER
4 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
3 tablespoons dark brown sugar
1-1/2 tablespoons minced candied ginger
1/2 teaspoon Chinese five spice powder
2 tablespoons dark rum or brandy
1/4 teaspoon salt
FOR THE SALTY PISTACHIOS
1/3 cup unsalted pistachios, shelled
1 teaspoon water
1/2 teaspoon sugar
1/8 teaspoon kosher salt

Center a rack in your oven. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Lightly spray a pie plate or cookie sheet with non-stick cooking spray. Combine all the spice

butter ingredients and mix until well blended. Chill before using. In a small bowl, combine all pistachio ingredients, spread out on baking pan in an even layer. Bake for 8-10 minutes. Let cool to room temperature before chopping roughly into pieces.

When ready to bake on day of serving, preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a medium bowl, combine the lemon juice and water. Slice the pears in half lengthwise, and remove the core with a melon baller.

Lightly grease a 9-inch by 13-inch baking dish with non-stick cooking spray. Dip the pears in the lemon water (to prevent browning) and place them cut side up in the baking dish. Evenly divide the spiced butter between the pears, filling the hole from the core in each one. Pour the sherry and vegetable stock into the baking dish and sprinkle lightly with salt and pepper. Bake, uncovered for 30-45 minutes, or until knife tender. Place the baked pears on a serving dish and spoon some of the cooking liquid over each. Sprinkle with salty pistachios and serve warm with the meal.

Jellied Cranberries with Clementine

Makes eight servings
1 12-ounce bag fresh cranberries
Zest and juice of three clementines
1 cup sugar
3 cinnamon sticks
1/8 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup water

Combine ingredients in a medium heavy bottomed saucepan over medium heat. Bring to a simmer and cook

for 15 to 20 minutes or until the mixture is reduced by half. Pull out the cinnamon sticks and spoon the cranberries into a 12-ounce mold which has been lightly sprayed with cooking spray. Cool to room temp before wrapping in plastic and refrigerating until cold (at least three hours). Gently loosen the sides of the jelly with a small sharp knife before inverting onto a serving dish.

Parsnip and Potato Mash with Roasted Garlic and Toasted Breadcrumbs

Makes 12 servings
FOR THE ROASTED GARLIC CREAM
24 cloves garlic, peeled
1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
Salt and pepper
1 cup heavy cream
1/2 cup milk
6 tablespoons unsalted butter
FOR THE BREADCRUMBS
1 tablespoon unsalted butter
1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
1/2 cup best quality breadcrumbs, unseasoned
1 clove of peeled garlic, minced
2 pound Yukon gold potatoes, unpeeled, cut into two-inch pieces
1 pound parsnips, peeled and cut into one-inch pieces
1 tablespoon kosher salt

Center a rack in the oven. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place the 24 garlic cloves in a small baking dish. Drizzle one tablespoon of the extra virgin olive oil over the garlic, and season with 1/8 teaspoon salt and a pinch of black pepper. Cover tightly with aluminum foil and bake for 45 minutes to one hour, or until the garlic is soft and golden. Set aside.

In a medium saucepan, combine the cream, milk, butter, one teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper and heat until the mixture is hot and the butter is melted. Add the roasted garlic cloves and puree with an immersion blender until smooth (alternatively, you can puree the mixture in a blender until smooth). Allow to cool and store



in the refrigerator up to five days or until ready to use. Heat the remaining olive oil and one tablespoon of butter in a small skillet over medium heat. Add the breadcrumbs, minced garlic, 1/4 teaspoon salt and 1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper. Toast while stirring until golden, about three minutes. Remove from pan and set aside to cool. Store in an airtight container at room temperature until just before serving.

On the day of serving, place the potatoes and parsnips in a medium-large pot. Cover with cold water and add one tablespoon salt. Bring the potatoes to a boil, over high heat, and then reduce to a simmer and cook until very tender, about 15-20 minutes. Drain well and return to pot (keep very warm).

Meanwhile, reheat the garlic cream until hot over medium heat, but do not boil. Pour the hot garlic cream over the still warm potatoes and mash to desired consistency. Taste and season with additional salt and pepper if desired.

Sprinkle the toasted garlic breadcrumbs over the top just before serving.

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9 DAYS...

Continued from page 22

OPERA, "DON GIOVANNI": Mozart's classic, 3:27 p.m. Regina Hall (1230 65th St. at 13th Avenue in Dyker Heights, (718) 232-3555). www.reginapark.org

THEATER, "TOP GIRLS": 7:30 p.m. See Friday, Nov. 20.

MUSIC, "KEPERS": See Friday, Nov. 20.

DANCE, "REALLY REAL": See Friday, Nov. 20.

DANCE, "SENSEATE": See Friday, Nov. 20.

MUSIC, BROOKLYN JAZZ COLLECTIVE: Free concert, 7:30 p.m. New Utrecht Reformed Church (18th Ave. between 83rd and 84th streets in Bensonhurst, (718) 238-1959).

CLASSICAL CONCERT: St. Petersburg String Quartet, 5:40 p.m. Bargemusic (Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 624-2083). www.bargemusic.org

THEATER, "INTIMATE AP-PAREL": See Friday, Nov. 20.

THEATER, "THE NEW ELECTRIC BALLROOM": See Friday, Nov. 20.

DANCE, "MIRRORS TITLED WILDLY": See Friday, Nov. 20.

SILENT FILM AND LIVE MUSIC: Free, 8 p.m. Galapagos Art Space (16 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 222-8500). www.galapagosartspace.com

SALES AND MARKETS

HATTE CARTHAN COMMUNITY MARKET: Free, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Hatte Carthan Community Market (Clifton Place and Marcy Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (212) 594-2155).

PS 321 FLEA MARKET: Free, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. PS 321 schoolyard (Seventh Avenue and First Street in Park Slope, www.parkslopefleamarket.com).

PARK SLOPE GREENMARKET: Brooklyn's answer to Union Square, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Grand Army Plaza (Union Street and Flatbush Avenue in Park Slope, (212) 788-7900). www.cenyc.org

BROOKLYN FLEA: Free, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Bishop Loughlin HS (137 Clermont Ave. at Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, www.brooklynflea.com).

CHRISTMAS FAIR: See Friday, Nov. 20.

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: Free, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. (129 N. Sixth St. between Bedford Avenue and Berry Street in Williamsburg, www.artistsandfleas.com).

HOLIDAY GIFTS: Free, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture (53 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope, (718) 768-2972). www.bsec.org

MASSIVE SWAP MEET: Clear out your closets and find new treasures, 3 p.m.-7 p.m. 3rd Ward (195 Morgan Ave. at Stagg Street in Bushwick, (718) 715-4961). www.scoredate.com

OTHER

GLASS ART: Group exhibition of work from the Urban Glass studio, Free, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Urban Glass (647 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 625-3685). www.urbanglass.org

HEALTH FAIR: Exhibits and advice on healthy eating, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Green Fitness Studio (232 Varot St. in Bushwick, (347) 599-5643).

QUILTING WORKSHOP: Noon-4 p.m. Lefterts Historic Homestead (Inside park on Flatbush Avenue near Empire Boulevard in Prospect Park, (718) 965-8899). www.prospectpark.org

READING, ARTHUR GOLDWAG: Author of "Guns, Conspiracies, and Secret Societies," 5:30 (suggested), 1 p.m. Kolot Chayneyu Synagogue (1012 Eighth Ave. between 10th and 11th streets in Park Slope).

FILM, "RENE": Part of BAM's New Cezh Films retrospective, 3:11 p.m. and 6:50 p.m. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100). www.bam.org

FILM, "TOSBUK": Part of BAM's New Cezh Films retrospective, 3:11 p.m. and 6:50 p.m. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100). www.bam.org

GLASS ART: Jeff Zimmerman and the Burnt Asphalt Family create art in front of you, 5:20-5:17, 7 p.m. Urban Glass (647 Fulton St. between Rockwell Place and Ashland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 625-3685). www.urbanglass.org

ART OPENING: Group show, "Get Your Shindereah," Free, 7 p.m. Brooklynite Gallery (334 Malcolm X Blvd. in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (347) 450-5976).

SUN, NOV. 22

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

TOUR, FORAGE WITH WILDMAN STEVE BRILL: Learn to eat stuff that grows in the park. Reservations required, \$15 (donation), 11:30 a.m. Prospect Park (enter at Grand Army Plaza at Eastern Parkway in Park Slope, (718) 833-2153). www.wildmanstevebrill.com

TOUR, URBANGLOSS OPEN HOUSE: Holiday-themed event, Free, Noon-4 p.m. UrbanGlass (647 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 625-3685). www.urbanglass.org

PERFORMANCE

THEATER, "TOP GIRLS": 2 p.m. See Friday, Nov. 20.

THEATER, "INTIMATE AP-PAREL": 2 p.m. See Friday, Nov. 20.

THEATER, "OF MICE AND MEN": Steinbeck's master piece, 5:23 p.m. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College (2900 Campus Rd. at Hill St. in Flatbush, (718) 951-4500).

CLASSICAL CONCERT: St. Petersburg String Quartet, 5:40 p.m. Bargemusic (Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 624-2083). www.bargemusic.org



'Senseate' and sensibility: Carrie Ahern stars in the site-specific dance piece, "Senseate," which will roam all over the Brooklyn Lyceum through Nov. 22.

ILLIOP

JAPANESE ARTS FESTIVAL: See Saturday, Nov. 21.

OPERA, "DON GIOVANNI": 3 p.m. See Saturday, Nov. 21.

THEATER, "THE NEW ELECTRIC BALLROOM": 4 p.m. See Friday, Nov. 20.

MUSIC, TRIO SOLISTE: Classical interlude with violinist Maria Bachmann, cellist Alena Bachmann and pianist Jon Kilbornoff, Free, 4 p.m. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Grand Army Plaza at Eastern Parkway in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100).

DANCE, "SENSEATE": See Friday, Nov. 20.

MUSIC, CUB COUNTRY: Jets to Brazil bassist Jeremy Chablan's side project, 5:30 p.m. Union Hall (102 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400). www.unionhallny.com

SALES AND MARKETS

PS 321 FLEA MARKET: See Saturday, Nov. 21.

CHRISTMAS FAIR: See Friday, Nov. 20.

FULTON FLEA: Weather permitting, 10 a.m. Brooklyn Plaza Medical Center (650 Fulton St. near Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, www.fultonflea.com).

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: See Saturday, Nov. 21.

FARMERS MARKET: Free, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. J.L. Byrne Park (Fifth Avenue and Fourth Street in Park Slope).

OTHER

GLASS ART: Group exhibition of work from the Urban Glass studio, Free, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Urban Glass (647 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 625-3685). www.urbanglass.org

EXHIBIT, DUTCH-AMERICAN DOCUMENTS: "Pages of the Past: The Breukelen Adventures of Jasper Danckaerts," 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Brooklyn Historical Society (128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111). www.brooklynhistory.org

WORKSHOP, "LIVING A JUST LIFE": Free, 11 a.m.

12:30 p.m. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture (53 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope, (718) 768-2972). www.bsec.org

READING, JOHN ROCCO: Author of "Fu Finds the Way," 11 a.m. BookCourt (163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-8677). www.bookcourt.org

TALK ON FAITH: Row Chagayefo Selou explores, "What does it mean to step out on nothing with the expectation that you will land on something?" 11 a.m. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture (53 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope, (718) 768-2972). www.bsec.org

QUILTING WORKSHOP: See Saturday, Nov. 21.

BOROUGH-WIDE GALLERY: Free transportation provided to galleries from Greenpoint to Bay Ridge. Reservations required, 1-6 p.m., www.visitbrooklyn.org.

FILM, "AMERICAN MAD-NESS": Frank Capra's story of an honest everyman assailed by thievery, adultery, mobsters, gambling and capitalism gone mad, Free, 1:30 p.m. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Grand Army Plaza at Eastern Parkway in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100).

FILM, "THE KARAMAZOVs": Part of BAM's New Cezh Films retrospective, 3:11 p.m. and 6:50 p.m. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100). www.bam.org

BROOKLYN CHILI COOKOFF: 5:15 p.m. The Ball House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510). www.theballhouse.com

FILM, "I'M ALL GOOD": Part of BAM's New Cezh Films retrospective, 3:11 p.m. and 6:50 p.m. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100). www.bam.org

See 9 DAYS on page 25

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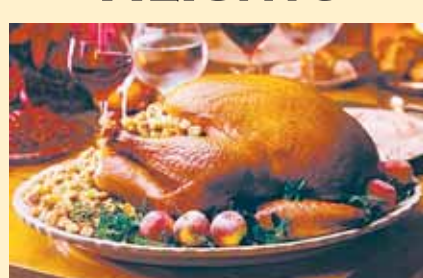


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The local yokers

Comedy is coming to the Knitting Factory.

On Nov. 15, "Saturday Night Live" writer Hannibal Buress started hosting a weekly stand-up show at the Williamsburg venue, inviting friends and doing his own routine.

"We're trying to diversify our programming," said Chris White, a talent buyer for the venue, which has broadened from music to include a sewing party called "Yarn Dolls" on Sunday afternoons and "Lunchhearts L.I.C.," a monthly reading series hosted by author Jami Attenberg.

Buress was a natural fit "because he's a neighborhood guy," said White.

For his part, Buress said he was jazzed to be honing his craft on stage.



with fellow comics Kumail Nanjiani and Baron Vaughn. "It's great to just be able to have my own place to try new material and not have to take the train anywhere," he said.

Living in Brooklyn has helped the Chicago native's material.

"I saw two Hasidic Jews walk past each other without speaking," goss one of Buress's new jokes. "I thought that was weird. If I saw someone with the exact same outfit as me from head to toe, I'd at least stop and say, 'That's a nice hat.'"

Comedy night at the Knitting Factory (361 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg, (347) 629-6696) begins Nov. 15 at 9 p.m. Free. —Meredith Deliso

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 24

MAKE NEW FRIENDS

NIGHT: Why make take friends on Facebook? \$10 (donations). 5 p.m. Hi Christian (32 Grand St. between Leonard Street and Manhattan Avenue in Williamsburg), hichristina.com.

MON, NOV. 23

GLASS ART: Group exhibition of work from the Urban Glass studio. Free. 10 p.m. 6 p.m. Urban Glass (647 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 625-3455), www.urban-glass.org.

FILM, "THE ROYAL FAMILY OF BROADWAY"

Part of the Hungarians in Hollywood retrospective. \$11. 6:50 and 9:30 p.m. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100), www.bam.org.

PLAY READING: Monthly series called "Script Tease" \$5. 7 p.m. Union Hall (702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4800), www.unionhall.org.

TUES, NOV. 24

DENTAL CARE: 4 p.m. Lutheran Medical Center Dental Clinic (150 59th St. between First and Second avenues in Sunset Park, (718) 491-7477).

FILM, "SHAME" Part of the Liv Ullmann Retrospective. \$11. 4:30, 6:50 and 9:15 p.m. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100), www.bam.org.

POETRY OPEN MIC: A legacy of former poet laureate Ken Siegelman. 6:30 p.m. Barnes & Noble Park Slope (267 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street in Park Slope, (718) 832-9066).

FILM, "LATE SPRING" Director Yasujiro Ozu explores the relationship between a father and daughter as the traditional patterns of

family life change. Free. 6:30 p.m. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Grand Army Plaza at Eastern Parkway in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100).

THURS, NOV. 26

EXHIBIT, DUTCH-AMERICAN DOCUMENTS: See Sunday, Nov. 22.

FILM, "PERSONA" Part of the Liv Ullmann Retrospective. \$11. 4:30, 6:50 and 9:15 p.m. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100), www.bam.org.

THEATER, "THE NEW ELECTRIC BALLROOM" See Friday, Nov. 20.

FRI, NOV. 27

FILM, "PERSONA" See Thursday, Nov. 26.

THEATER, "A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE" A revival directed by Liv Ullmann. \$40-\$120. 7:30 p.m. BAM Harvey Theater (651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100), www.bam.org.

CLASSICAL CONCERT: Mendelssohn's "Songs Without Words." \$35. 8 p.m. Bargemusic (Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 624-2083), www.bargemusic.org.

SAT, NOV. 28

PERFORMANCE **THEATER, "THE NEW ELECTRIC BALLROOM"** See Friday, Nov. 20.

THEATER, "A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE" A revival directed by Liv Ullmann. \$40-\$120. 7:30 p.m. BAM Harvey Theater (651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100), www.bam.org.

LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in *Nine Days in Brooklyn*, please give us two weeks notice or more. Send your listing by e-mail: calendar@nyclocal.com; or by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Paper, 1 Metrotech Center North, Suite 1001, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

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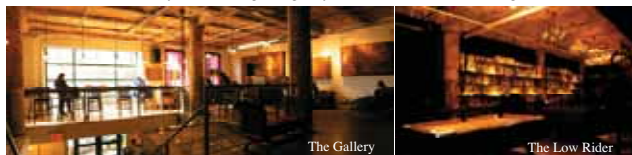
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30 years STORIES...

Continued from page 3

"All I have to say is I'm extremely sorry," he said when sentenced to four years and four months.

Assembly Speaker Mel Miller automatically lost his seat because of his fraud and conspiracy in the theft of \$200,000 from clients of his law firm. Referring to Miller and an aide who was also convicted, the sentencing judge said, "What makes this so serious is that they are men of prominence, educated men, officers of the court."

"District Attorney Eugene Gold prosecuted Son of Sam and other notorious criminals during four terms. After leaving office, an incident at a prosecutor's convention in Nashville in 1983 led to his admitting that he had "engaged in unlawful sexual conduct" and "unlawful sexual fondling" of a 10-year-old.

Crimes & misdemeanors

23 No day of infancy:

No day of infancy: The 30 years matches the horror of 9-11 and its impact on The Brooklyn Paper's readers. The relatives and friends and firemen and police who died; the terror seen, heard and smelled from the Brooklyn Heights promenade that morning; the shocked survivors streaming across the Brooklyn Bridge and through Downtown Brooklyn en route home; the debris from the Trade Center that settled on Brooklyn for days afterwards — all left indelible marks.

24 Homegrown terror:

Terror plots in the years before and after the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and the 9-11 attack periodically put Brooklyn on edge. Trade Center bomb plotters preached in mosques on Atlantic Avenue and in Kensington; on March 1, 1994, in the wake of the assassination of Arabs in Hebron by an Israeli from Brooklyn, a gunman open fire in traffic on the Brooklyn Bridge and killed rabbinical student Ari Halberstam; alleged terror plots were exposed in Park Slope, where bombs were being produced in an apartment for deployment in the Atlantic-Pacific subway complex. A long forgotten case of pre-Trade Center terror took the life of a resident above the Trippi Restaurant on Atlantic Avenue in Cobble Hill in 1982. That arson case remains unsolved.

25 The 'Burn Boy':

When Charles Rothenberg set fire to his 6-year-old son David, the Carroll Gardens community rallied to support David and his mother Marie. The horrific crime, committed during a custody dispute in 1983, left David with critical burns over 90 percent of his body and permanently disfigured. His mother remarried and resettled with David in California — and the story was the subject of the made-for-TV movie, "David," starring Bernadette Peters and John Glover. Father Charles earned a maximum sentence — 13 years — but was paroled after less than seven.

26 Councilman slain:

In one of the most shocking crimes to ever happen inside City Hall, an political rival to Councilman James E. Davis (D-Fort Greene) shot and killed his enemy from the gallery in the Council chamber before a security officer gunned him down. Davis's own warmth and trusting nature indirectly led to his July 25, 2003 demise. On that day, Davis hoped to mend fences with Othiel Askew by inviting him to City Hall, where he planned to mention him from the gallery. Even in those post-9-11 days, councilmembers could spurt their guests through City Hall security screening by merely saying, "He's with me." Davis's brother Geoffrey tried to succeed his sibling, but Letitia James, running on the Working Families Party line, won the election and remains the district's councilwoman to this day.

27 Tense times:

Racial tensions were rarely far from the surface through the 1990s. The Rev. Herbert Daughtry staged noisy Christmas-season rallies outside Fulton Mall department stores, demanding jobs under the threat of a boycott; Yusuf Hawkins, a black youth, was stabbed to death by a white mob in Bensonhurst — and when the Rev. Al Sharpton marched there in protest, he was stabbed; bitterness and justice followed the police torture (and coverup) of Haitian immigrant Abner Louima; Sharpton and Sen. Carlos led nasty demonstrations against Korean merchants on Church Avenue; and Crown Heights erupted in days of anti-Jewish rioting

per's history, the city has been talking about tolling the East River bridges — and borough leaders have been screaming about it. Mayor Bloomberg's congestion pricing plan — and a more limited version proposed by Gov. Paterson — have come close. The specter will be raised again soon enough.

30 Number's up:

Re-member when the entire city had one area code? Few new Brooklynites do, but in 1983, New York Telephone (remember them?) proposed a new area code — 718 — for Brooklyn. Borough President Howard Golden protested vehemently, saying that a new area code would isolate Brooklyn. But others, most notably then-Chamber of Commerce President Joseph French, saw the new area code as a means to strengthening Brooklyn's independence. In the end, French (who was a telecom executive, by the way) was right. Despite the temporary inconvenience, the new area code still feels hip today. No wonder people put it on T-shirts.

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Here's where to find your B'klyn Paper



The Brooklyn Paper

We hope you're enjoying this week's 30th-anniversary edition of The Brooklyn Paper. We made an unprecedented effort to get it into your hands, home-delivering a record 75,000 copies of one of our largest issues ever.

Now that we've got you hooked, you'll no doubt want to pick up the print edition of The Brooklyn Paper every week — to get your fix of local news, arts, features, columns and the best listings in the borough.

To make it easy, here's a list of some key drop locations in the neighborhoods we serve. And remember, if you can't get to one of our drop spots, check out BrooklynPaper.com, our award-winning Web site — updated daily! Or pick us up in selected issues of the New York Post every Friday.

B. Heights

Key Food (Montague Street between Henry and Hicks streets)

Park Plaza Diner (Cadman Plaza West at Pineapple Walk)

Clark Restaurant (Corner of Clark and Henry streets)

DUMBO

Front Street Pizza (Corner of Front and Washington streets)

Sovereign Bank (Washington Street between Front and Water streets)

Downtown

American Housewares (Court Street between Livingston and Schermerhorn streets)

Signature Bank (Corner of Court and Rensselaer streets)

Cobble Hill

Newbox (Corner of Court and Dean streets)

Thrifty Beverage (Corner of Court Street near Kane Street)

Met Food (Corner of Smith and Baltic streets)

C. Gardens

Citibank (Court Street between Second and Third places)

House of Pizza and Calzone (Union Street between Hicks and Columbia streets)

Met Food (Henry Street between Union and President streets)

Boerum Hill

Atlantis Laundromat (Atlantic Avenue between Nevins Street and Third Avenue)

Brooklyn Fare (Corner of Schermerhorn and Bond streets)

Bay Ridge

Cauliano (Corner of Third and Ovington avenues)

Food Town (Third Avenue near 92 Street)

Harbor Fitness (Fourth Avenue near 92 Street)

Park Slope

Key Food (Corner of Seventh Avenue and Carroll Street)

Barnes and Noble (Corner of Seventh Avenue and Sixth Street)

Key Food (Fifth Avenue between Baltic and Butler streets)

Check Cashing (Flatbush Avenue between Bergen Street and St. Marks Avenue)

Associated Foods (Myrtle Avenue at Hall Street)

Tillie's (Corner of DeKalb and Vanderbilt avenues)

Fort Greene

Key Food (Prospect Avenue bet. 10th and 11th avenues)

Connecticut Muffin (Corner of Prospect Park West and 15th Street)

Williamsburg

Cross County Bank (Bedford Avenue between N. Seventh and N. Eighth streets)

Pizzeria (Driggs Avenue between N. Sixth and N. Seventh streets)

Post (Corner of Driggs Avenue and N. Fourth Street)

Greenpoint

Key Food (McGuinness Boulevard between Greenpoint Avenue and Kent Street)

Associated Foods (Manhattan Avenue between Calyer Street and Meserole Avenue)

YMCA (Manhattan Avenue and Lorimer Street)

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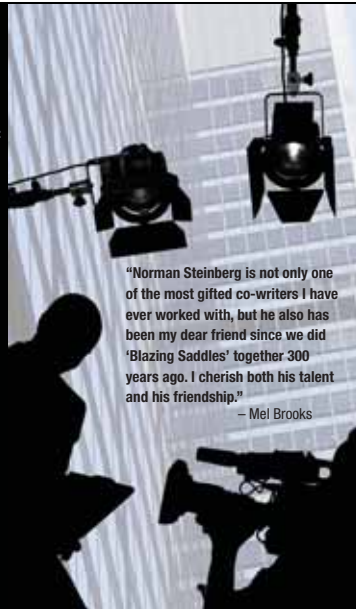
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The Brooklyn Paper

Telling it like it was

Our first editor, Beverly Cheuvront, and our first features editor, Laurie Sue Brockway, sat down with our current editor, Gersh Kuntzman, and founding publisher, Ed Weintrob, to share some memories, a few laughs, and expense account pizza. Cheuvront is now director of communications for NYC Habitat for Humanity, and Brockway is Family and Inspiration Editor at Beliefnet, a spirituality Web site.

The Brooklyn Paper: Do you have any favorite memories from The Paper's first year?

Beverly Cheuvront: Brooklyn was very "wild west" then. Politically and in terms of development, things were just out in the open. People didn't hide a lot — they didn't seem to think they'd get caught doing anything wrong, so the stories were there for the picking. You didn't have to work too hard to find corruption.

BP: What was one of your favorite stories?

Laurie Sue Brockway: I remember the Times and the News had written these glowing stories about this developer at 66 Court Street. And Beverly had done some digging to find out that this guy had been convicted previously of swindles of this type.

BC: I decided to check out the guy's background. This



VIEW ASKEW: The Brooklyn Paper's first editorial team — Editor Beverly Cheuvront (left) and features editor Laurie Sue Brockway — review early issues.



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This holiday season, protect yourself and your family

Council Member **Letitia James** recommends getting vaccinated against the **H1N1 Influenza**, as well as the **seasonal flu virus** to protect you, your family and friends during this 2009 holiday season.

The City's Health Department is offering **free vaccines** at clinics throughout the city to prepare all residents for the flu season. A convenient vaccination site located within the 35th Council District is: the Fort Greene Health Center, (DOHMH Walk-In Clinic), located at 295 Flatbush Avenue Extension, 5th floor in Brooklyn — for more information please call (718) 643-8351. Other vaccination locations can be found at www.nyc.gov/html/doh/flu, and you may call (917) 438-9780 for recorded updated clinic operation information (or contact 311).

Please remember: vaccination is the best way to protect children and adults from the flu and prevent community-wide transmission.

Letitia James
New York City Council, 35th Council District

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30 years — THE EDITORS SPEAK!

is what I'm talking out about with stories being out there for the taking. It was not that hard to find out that he was a convicted felon.

LSB: But [before the Internet], it wasn't such a simple thing finding those physical documents in other states.

BC: We sat together when we decided to call him and get his statement. And the high-tech system we had was an answering machine with a tape recorder. We recorded his response so we had a record of what he said to me, and he came clean.

BP: It's hard, even in this Internet age, to get stories like this exclusively. So both of you are responsible for setting the tone with some really amazing work.

BC: I think we were able to set the tone because Ed believed in it. I can't think of a lot of people who would invest their life savings in a newspaper with the goal of trying to earn a living and encourage this kind of reporting. It's not typical for community papers. It just isn't.

BP: I understand that in

"Good reporters who dig — they're the ones who get the stories."

the early days, the establishment in Brooklyn didn't exactly love you, Ed.

Ed Weintraub: I had to meet with the Chamber of Commerce because they had actually discussed a formal boycott. One of the members of the board who was a lawyer said it's really not a good idea for the Chamber of Commerce to officially boycott a newspaper. Then I had to go see the Citibank vice president and explain to her what a newspaper was about, that a newspaper just doesn't print press releases. They were upset about the coverage of the police, they thought we shouldn't print crime news.

BP: What other big stories might people remember?

LSB: Before I was a reporter, I was just an office manager. I saw I was sweeping the floors and remember Beverly calling, "Oh Brooklyn. We have an assignment for you!" She sent me over to Episode 2, the brothel on Remsen Street, to see if I could get an inter-



Laurie Sue Brockway hangs out with Andrew Dice Clay, a comic she discovered (see page 2).

view with the prostitutes who were busted that week. They were back at work, so I said OK. I went and it looked like my dentist's office, except the woman behind the door was wearing hot pants. I said "I'm Laurie Brockway and I'm here to get your side of the story. Can I just talk to the prostitutes that were busted?" So she says, "No." And she goes and gets the madam. I think they let me in because they thought I was looking for a job. I said,

"I'm here, I'm on your side, I just want to talk to the three women, really, we're on your side." And the madam says, "Get out of here." She actually pushed me. So I remember for a half hour I walked around Brooklyn Heights, just circling and crying and thinking, "Oh my god my career is over. I blew it. My first assignment and I couldn't get it." So I went back and wrote a story about getting kicked out of a cathouse. I think it was my first story ever published. After that, I became a crime reporter and about a year later we got a call from one of the cops in the neighborhood, saying they were taking beds out of Episode 2 — and this time, the madam gave me an exclusive.

EW: The headline was, "Episode 2 closes, ending service to community."

BP: The story of these last 30 years is the story of the revival of Brooklyn. The brownstones moving in, renovating those homes, getting rid of some of this political corruption, etc.

Our first two leaders roast some chestnuts

When you look back on those years, what do you think have been the significant changes?

LSB: I think we all wish we'd bought brownstones.

BC: Covering affordable housing got me interested in housing issues. The incident that really got me involved was in the heart of Brooklyn Heights. The landlord wanted to renovate it. He wanted to empty it out. He'd turned off all the utilities while people were living there. I found out about it from knowing the neigh-

borhood. When I went there I met a very elderly woman who was living on one of the top floors, and she was carrying water upstairs to her apartment. She had no other option. So she was taking this bottle of water and carrying it up the stairs, and climbing up after it. All the way up to her top floor. Another story was about the absolute worst of the one-notorious homeless hotels, right across from BAM. To walk in there and see what was happening to the families there and the conditions they

were living in was beyond belief. It was a city-run homeless shelter in a hotel. The city would pay the landlord astronomical amounts of money to house homeless families there. There was one family that had no bathroom on the whole floor. They had buckets. That's how they lived. And the city was paying the market rate for these rooms. These were the kinds of stories about housing that set me on fire. We were not very popular for reporting those. BAM was very unhappy that we highlighted

what was going on there.

BP: Any other enemies?

BC: One time, a liquor store was planning to open up across the street from an existing liquor store. The state liquor authority was just deluged with letters opposed to the new store. Then we looked at it closely and realized all the letters came from the owner of the existing liquor store! He generated them! We raised this with the liquor authority and the guy almost lost his license.

BP: You got the letters

from the liquor authority and then went to the addresses to confirm that the letters were real? What gave you that idea?

BC: That's what reporters do.

BP: Not anymore they don't.

BC: Yeah, now you take the letter, write something off the top of your head, post it on your blog and it becomes gospel. But good reporters who do dig — they're the ones who get the stories.

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Kidnapping under Bridge

84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO

Boerum Hill-Downtown

A 37-year-old man was

arrested after he dragged a

woman into his van and held

her for almost an hour until

she escaped under the Brook-

lyn Bridge on Nov. 11.

The 30-year-old woman

told police that she was at

Adams and Tillary streets at

around 5 pm when the crim-

inal snatched her cellphone

out of her hand. He started

to walk away yet beckoned

her toward his parked van

and told her to take the cell-

phone if she wanted it back.

When she reached into the

van, he dragged her into the

vehicle and drove off under

the Brooklyn Bridge.

She screamed and repeat-

edly hit him—and was eventu-

ally able to leap out of the

van. She ran to a nearby po-

lice officer, who arrested the

thug.

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Style snatch

A gunman robbed a Gar-

field Place jeans store of cash,

clothes and an employee's

phone on Nov. 12.

Cops said that the pistol-

packing clothes store initially

seemed to be only browsing

inside the store, which is near

Seventh Avenue, at around

4:30 pm, but quickly revealed

his true purpose by pulling

the gun and demanding,

"Open the register, give me

the money and don't push any

buttons or I will kill you."

On his way out, he added

a chilling warning: "If I see

you come out of the store, I

will shoot you."

He got away with \$1,000

in cash.

GTAS

At least three motorcycles

and one car were swiped last

week in the car thiefing cap-

ital of Brownstone Brooklyn.

Here's a roundup:

A bandit made off with a

Harley Davidson that had

been parked on Baltic Street

between Fourth and Fifth

avenues at around 7 pm on Nov.

11.

"Later that night, a blue

motorcycle was snatched from

Union Street between Fifth

and Sixth avenues after its

owner had left it unlocked

and behind his fence.

"The next day, a Ducati

crotch-rocket valued at over

\$13,000 was pilfered from

Butler Street between Fourth

and Fifth avenues by a thief

who broke the wheel lock.

"And in the only reported

car theft, a thief grabbed a

19-year-old Chevy that had

been parked on Second Street

between Eighth Avenue and

Prospect Park West late on

Nov. 11.

—Stephen Brown

76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens

Cobble Hill-Red Hook

Gun mug

A woman was mugged at

gunpoint—and even had her



Tired out

Thieves were in such a rush to get the tires off this Lexus that they even left their jack behind! This was the scene on the block between Henry and Hicks streets last Friday, a few hours after thugs stripped off the fancy wheels — which cops say have a street value in the thousands.

BLOTTER...

Continued from page 30
 • A thief nabbed a cell from a woman near the corner of Roebling and North Eighth streets at around 10:40 p.m. on Nov. 8.

• A thief tricked a man into dropping his defenses by asking him for directions at around 9:30 a.m. on Nov. 10 and then pulling a gun on him. The man gave up his cell and \$2, and the mugger fled up Humboldt Street toward Frost Street.

• Two muggers approached a man on North Seventh Street on Nov. 11 and one pulled out a gun and commanded him to give them his wallet and phone. The perps made off with the cell and 10:30 p.m. attack, then fled.

House burg

At least two homes were burglarized this week in Greenpoint. Here's how it all happened:

• A woman returned to her Lorimer Street home at around 7 p.m. on Nov. 12 and discovered the bathroom window was open and her laptop was gone from the unit, which is between Skillman Avenue and Conesey Street.

• A woman was awoken by the sound of shattering glass in her Bedford Avenue home at around 6:30 a.m. on Nov. 13 and walked into her kitchen to find that her laptop, iPhone, purse and credit cards had been taken from her apartment, which is between North Eighth and North Ninth streets.

— Simon McCormack

90TH PRECINCT Williamsburg-Bushwick

Ugly rape

A woman was raped inside a bathroom at a cafe on Metropolitan Avenue on Nov. 7.

Cops said that the victim was having drinks with friends around 10 p.m. inside the bar, which is between Wythe Avenue and Berry Street, when she excused herself to use the restroom.

She told police that she accidentally went into the men's restroom where a man forced her to have sex with him.

No more details were provided by police on what was the eighth reported rape of the year.

Meserole mess

Two women dicked being mugged by a bad guy on Meserole Street on Nov. 14 by simply running away from their would-be attacker — but the thief finally got his cash from a third victim.

The first unsuccessful mugging was at around 7:40 p.m. when a thief put a gun to a woman's torso between Graham Avenue and Humboldt Street. When the woman kept walking, the would-be-robbler grabbed her arm, but she yanked it away and ran away yelling for help. The perp decided not to chase her.

Five minutes later and one block away, a woman ran into a bodega at Bushwick Avenue to avoid giving the armed

mugger her possessions. The robber fled into the night. But about an hour later, he was at work again, this time near Manhattan Avenue when he held up a woman with a simple question: "How much money you got, miss?"

The landed over \$80 and a Blackberry. One day later, another thief — possibly the same man — mugged a woman for \$22 at around 1:20 a.m. on the block between Humboldt Street and Graham Avenue.

Burgled burg

At least four homes were burglarized this week. Here are the details:

• A thief forced open a door of a woman's apartment on Grand Street between Graham Avenue and Humboldt Street at around 3:15 p.m. on Nov. 11 and got a Wii and several pieces of jewelry.

• A man returned to his Thames Street apartment at 2:30 a.m. on Nov. 13 to discover that his bedroom window was open and two laptops missing from his apartment, which is between Varick and Porter avenues.

• A man returned from work at 6 p.m. on Nov. 13 to find his Xbox, digital camera and iPod missing from his apartment on Moore Street between Humboldt Street and Bushwick Avenue.

• An open kitchen window was all the inspiration a crook needed to break into an apartment on Devos Street between Catherine Street and Morgan Avenue on Nov. 14. The culprit took \$180 and a laptop sometime between 3 and 8 p.m.

— Simon McCormack

68TH PRECINCT Bay Ridge

80th St bullets

A gunman was arrested on Monday for his alleged role in a botched robbery on 80th Street that nearly killed a 52-year-old neighborhood businessman.

Police said that their 24-year-old suspect is the first of a handful of people expected to be arrested in the failed heist near Narrows Avenue.

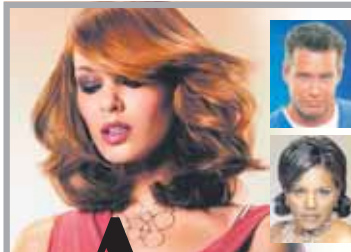
The victim, 52, told cops that he was approaching his home at 6:50 p.m. when a van lurched into his path, blocking his way.

Two men jumped out, ran up to his car and bashed in the window before jumping inside. They tried to pull the victim into the back seat, but the victim fought off the men as his vehicle rolled down the street an additional 30 feet.

After the man finally shook loose, one of the men pulled a gun and fired a round, which slammed into a brick wall.

The suspects fled, but responding officers found their van on 80th Street between Ridge Boulevard and Narrows Avenue.

Investigators tracked down the van, and arrested their man. — Thomas Tracy



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LEGAL NOTICES

State University of New York Notice to Bidders

The State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center will receive sealed Proposals for

Project No. 05-227 Titled: "Transplant Unit" until 2:00 p.m. Local Time on Tuesday, November 24, 2009.

Sealed bids to be submitted to the office of Mr. Daniel P. Devine, Contracts and Procurement, SUNY

Downstate Medical Center, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Box 113, Brooklyn, New York 11203. The proposals will then be publicly opened and read aloud at 711 Parkside Avenue, SUNY

11226, Room BA-27.

All work on this Contract is to be completed within five hundred and forty (540) calendar days,

starting ten (10) calendar days after the contract approval date of the New York State Contract.

Bidding and Contract Documents may be examined free of charge at the campus at SUNY

Downstate Medical Center, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Facilities Management and Development Plan Room, Box 113, Brooklyn, NY 11203-2038.

1. A MANDATORY pre-bid conference and Project Walk-through will be held on Wednesday,

December 9, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. with all contractors assembled at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in the Main Lobby, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11203. The mandatory

conference will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m. No individual or additional walk-through will be performed under the pre-bid time period. Only bidders who attend the Mandatory Pre-Bid

Conference and Project Walkthrough will be permitted to submit a proposal on this project.

2. Qualifications of Bidders:

(1) All prospective bidders are hereby notified that, on request of the University, they must be

able to provide to the satisfaction of the University that they have the skill and experience, as well as the necessary financial resources, organization and general reliability,

to do the work to be performed under the provisions of the Contract in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified.

(2) All bidders must be prepared to show to the satisfaction of the University that it has successfully

completed a Healthcare project that includes Medical Surgical patient rooms of a similar size, scope and complexity.

The size of this project is approximately 12,000 square feet. The Transplant Unit contains

24 single-bed patient rooms - four are Step down rooms and three are isolation rooms, as well as all necessary support spaces. It is a state-of-the-art facility that embraces evidence

based design and family-centered care. The level of finishes would be considered moderate to high-end and the millwork is custom.

The scope of the Transplant Unit will include the following systems: MEP fire protection,

structural, security, tele/data, audio-visual and nurse call. While the bulk of the construction is contained on the 8th floor, work will be performed in the basement as well as the floors above

and below which will require coordination and scheduling capabilities.

(3) Each bidder must be prepared to show to the satisfaction of the University that it has

working capital available for the Project upon which it is bidding in an amount equal to 15 percent of the first \$100,000 of the amount of its Total Bid plus 10 percent of the next \$900,000

plus 5 percent of the remainder of its Total Bid. Working capital is defined as the excess of current assets over current liabilities. The University defines current assets as assets which can be reasonably expected to be converted into cash within a year, and current liabilities as debts which will have to be paid within a year.

(4) A bidder must also be prepared to prove, to the satisfaction of the University, that it has

successfully completed a contract of similar work in an amount of not less than fifty (50) percent of the amount of its Total Bid.

Complete sets of Contract Documents for bidding may be obtained from:

Daniel P. Devine, Purchase Assistant, Contracts and Procurement, SUNY

Downstate Medical Center, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Box 113, Brooklyn, NY 11203,

Tel: (718) 626-5009, email: dan.devine@downstate.edu

Section 141 of the State Finance Law requires payment of a deposit to receive these documents. Accordingly, a deposit check of \$49.00, made payable to SUNY Downstate Medical Center is required. Deposits less than \$50.00 are non-refundable.

Bids must be submitted in duplicate in accordance with the instructions contained in the

Information for Bidders. Security will be required for each bid in an amount not less than five (5) percent of the Total Bid.

It is the policy of the State of New York and the State University of New York to encourage

minority business enterprises participation in this project by contractors, subcontractors and suppliers, and all bidders are expected to cooperate in implementing this policy.

The State University of New York reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of a Limited Liability Company (LLC) for the purpose of forming a company to be known as the

LLC, Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York on 10/09/2009.

Office location: Kings County, SUNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against

may be served. SUNY will mail a copy of process to: C/O Jackie E. Machuga, LLC, 449 Morgan Ave., Suite 24,

Brooklyn, NY 11222. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. Latest date upon which LLC is to dissolve: No specific date.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County, on the 9th day of November, 2009, bearing Index Number N01055, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Room 11207, grants me the right to assume the name of BRIAN MARC ZIMBERG.

My present name is BRIAN MARC ZIMMERMAN, 125 Saint James Place, Apt. #2A, Brooklyn, NY 11238. My date of birth is August 25, 1991. The place of my birth is Virginia, Lithuania. My date of birth is April 24, 1969. (JTC14)

NOTICE IS HEREBY given

that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County, on the 2nd day of November, 2009, bearing Index Number N985/09, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Room 11207, grants me the right to assume the name of VALERIO RAFAEL.

My present name is VALERIO RAFAEL, 8023 7th Avenue, Apt. 3J, Brooklyn, NY 11214. The date of my birth is August 25, 1991. The place of my birth is Virginia, Lithuania. My date of birth is May 18, 2005.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given

that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County, on the 11th day of November, 2009, bearing Index Number N01011-09/KC, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Room 11207, grants me the right to assume the name of MIKAILA ELEONOR TORO CASTILLO.

My present name is MIKAILA ELEONOR CASTILLO, 572 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY 11228. My date of birth is August 25, 1991. The place of my birth is Virginia, Lithuania. My date of birth is May 18, 2005.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given

that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County, on the 11th day of November, 2009, bearing Index Number N01011-09/KC, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Room 11207, grants me the right to assume the name of MIKAILA ELEONOR TORO CASTILLO.

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